"THIS IS WDZ, TUSCOLA, ILLINOIS.

BY: RAY NEMEC, 1631 CAROL - DOWNERS GROVE, ILL

On March 17, 1921, the few radio receiving sets then in existance picked up a new signal, 9JR, Tuscola, Illinois. Operating with a power of 10 watts, 9JR was established by James L. Bush to report the latest grain quotations to neighboring farmers. Today that station is 1000 watt WDZ, the third oldest station in the nation.

After operating in Tuscola for 28 and one-half years, the station was moved to Decatur, with official opening of WDZ's Decatur studios on December 11, 1949.

Although a number of years have passed since WDZ moved, mention of such former station personalities as Lazy Jim Day or Country Cousin Chickie singing the news, Red Belcher, Paul Groves and Tom Moore brings back pleasant memories to many.

The population of Tuscola was about 2,500 but the station's standard of quality was of the highest. Its staff compared with those of stations in 'big' cities.

To get a job as WDZ sportscaster in 1940, Jack Peterson had to pass what he believes was the toughest audition ever conceived. Some 243 completely green announcing aspirants were put through all sorts of tests in a series of on-the-air auditions which spread over a period of six or seven weeks.

There were other sportscasters on WDZ; Hank Fisher, Don Edwards (Boudreau) and Jack Quinlan to name a few. Quinlan, who later became a great sportscaster in Chicago only to lose his life in an automobile accident, used the name of Jack Quinn on WDZ. The management felt Quinlan was not a good 'radio' name.

WDZ has had many famous personalities who claim the station was the first step in their careers. The story of WDZ in Tuscola, the many great announcers who appeared before its microphones, could fill the pages of a book. Ruth Moore a WDZ employee for 20 years, had what is believed to be the most complete file of information and pictures of WDZ and its staff members for the period the station operated from Tuscola.

Ruth Moore died August 2, 1968, but she still lives in the hearts of many people in central Illinois who listened in each day to Aunt Ruthie's Birthday Party. She received over 1,000,000 letters in seven years on the program. On other programs she played her harmonica and teamed with a hillbilly singer named Smiley Burnette.

The story of Tuscola's WDZ and its entertainers should be told. It was a great era in radio and WDZ was there helping to make it even better. Many are still active in radio today. Clair Hull owns KCID, Caldwell, Idaho. Fran Booton is News Director at WEAU, Eau Claire, Wisc., and Walt Schafer is Sales Manager at WJPF, Herrin, Ill. Some of the old entertainers such as Curt Poulton, Clara Mae Barton and Lazy Jim Day are dead. Some are still active in the entertaining field. Billy Scott is in Ohio and Johnny Barton does a TV program on a number of Television stations in central Illinois.

Paul Groves, one of the alltime favorites, now farms in Jasper County Illinois, and doing fine the last time I talked to him. Milt Dickey, another popular favorite, is now an all-night DJ on KCMO, Kansas City, Mo. There are hundreds more who appeared before the microphones of WDZ when the station carried live programs all day long.

Maybe someday a story can be written telling the complete story of this station and its staff. Few stations have enjoyed the acceptance that WDZ had with its listeners which all started 50 years ago when the "World's Pioneer Grain Market Station" first took to the air.

WRH

Hundreds Welcome

MR. AND MRS. LEO HEADLEY enjoyed meeting old friends of the early 1930's at Tuscola Radio Day. Mr. Headley presented a Sunday morning show for nine years on WDZ and was released from Danville Hospital for the day to attend the event. He played and sang his theme song "Linger A While" The Headley's now live in Paris.

THE PLOW JOCKEYS: Two of four who appeared on WDZ as "The Plow Jockeys" are (left) Frank Jennings, Decatur, and Curly Bray of Moline.

More than 40 former WDZ radio stars made Ervin Park ring with country and western music, an assortment of the "old timers", and banjo picking like you don't often hear any more, as some 1500 people gathered to observe the 50th anniversary of radio station WDZ, the third oldest station in the nation.

The event called "Tuscola Radio Day", is to become an annual affair. On the third Sunday of July each year, former WDZ stars will gather for a reunion at Ervin Park in Tuscola. While here these fine people swap stories of events which happened 20 to 30 years ago and take turns playing tunes which made WDZ-Tuscola so popular in Illinois and Indiana.

Highlight of the festivities was the appearance of Mrs. Edith Bush, former owner of station WDZ and Mrs. Gerald W. Chapman (Carolyn Burnette) youngest daughter of the late Smiley Burnette, who starred on WDZ for years and later became affiliated with Gene Autry.

This first "Tuscola Radio Days" was held as a memorial to "Smiley" and to honor Mrs. Bush.

Mrs. Chapman, her husband, and sons Gregory ,8, and Mitchell, 7, drove from their home in New Albany, Ohio, to be present. They spent the night in Tuscola in their family camper, and returned to Ohio Monday, where Gerald is reporting for a new asignment with Commercial Trades Institute of Chicago.

Many of those present had not seen each other for some 30 years, and those who had appeared with the station in the early 1930's didn't know the "youngsters" who came along in the early 1940's.

Station WDZ, like any other business, had its ups and downs, at times employ-

Moore, a WDZ personality for 20 years. Miss Moore, who died August 2, 1968, had one of the favorite programs, Aunt Ruthie's Birthday Party. She received over 1,000,000 letters from listeners in the seven years on the program. On other programs she played her harmonica and teamed with a hillbilly singer named Smiley Burnette.

Several WDZ people are still active in the business. Fran Booton is news director at WEAU, Eau Claire, Wisc., aand Walt Schafer is sales manager at WJPF, Herrin, Ill. Billy Scott is in Ohio and Johnny Barton does a TV program on a number of TV stations in central Illinois.

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Among those who took part in Sunday's reunion are: Gilbert Smith, Terre Haute, Ind., who auditioned at WDZ in 1935; Mrs. Bertha Bratton, Shelbyville, who now holds the Illinois ladies fiddling championship; Orval Williams of Effingham who appeared in 1938; Frank Jennings, Decatur, who appeared from 1936-42 as one of the "Pals of the Prairie"; R. Dale Wilson, Newton, a member of the Prairie Ramblers in 1935; Kenneth Hudson, Charleston, a member of the Drifting Ramblers in 1938; Mrs. Wayne (Georgana Feeler) Gire of Camargo, who appeared at age 11 with her accordian; Betty Lindenmay

BETTY LINDENMAYER who appeared on WDZ as Betty Lind, entertained Radio Day guests with several violin numbers. Since leaving WDZ, Betty has appeared on the Grand Old Oprey and many other top shows. She now lives in Indiana. She was with WDZ in 1944-45.

LETS GO!
DRIVE-IN TUSCOLA THEATRE
DINE AT OUR SNACK BAR
West of Tuscola on Rt. 36 — Phone 253-3607

Thursday Thru Wednesday-July 22-28
"Big Jake"-8:30 (open 7:30) "Club"-10:35

Big Jake...A legend of a man
A man who fought his way through hell
to save a grandson he had never seen!

John Wayne Richard Boone

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A CINEMA CENTER FILMS PRESENTATION
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JAMES STEWART
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GP TECHNICOLOR PANAVISION

and at other times operating with a staff of four.

Ray Nemec, a former announcer with WDZ, recalls that on March 17, 1921, the few radio receiving sets then in existence picked up a signal, 9JR, Tuscola, Illinois. Operating with a power of 10 watts, 9JR was established by James L. Bush to report the latest grain quotations to neighboring farmers. From this humble start was born station WDZ with 1000 watts, and a listening audience of hundreds of hundreds of thousands.

After operating in Tuscola for 28 and one-half years, the station was moved to Decatur, with official opening of WDZ-Decatur studios on December 11, 1949.

Although many years have passed since WDZ was at its zenith, the mention of such former station personalities as Lazy Jim Day, Country Cousin Chickie, Red Belcher, Paul Groves, and Tom Moore, along with the world famous Smiley Burnette, brings back pleasant memories to many. Even though WDZ was located in a community of some 2500 people, its staff compared favorably with those of stations in the big cities and its standard of quality was of the highest.

Many famous personalities have pased through WDZ portals. To name a few . . . Jack Peterson, Jack Quinlan, Hank Fisher and Don Edwards (Boudreau), all sportcasters. Jack Quinlan, who later became a great sportscaster in Chicago (he lost his life in an automobile accident), used the name Jack Quinn on WDZ because the management felt Quinlan was not a good 'radio' name.

Some of the old entertainers such as Curt Poulton, Clara Mae Barton and Lazy Jim Day are dead, as is Ruth

THE LAD, His Dad and M
WDZ for several years, se
of Tuscola Radio Day, and spe
noon on-stage. From left are
Gerald Clausen and Glen Cla

ISU "A" Students

Several Douglas county residents were among the record 368 students at Illinois State University who recorded straight A averages during the second semester.

From Tuscola were Deborah Dumas, 919 N. Center, senior library science major; Mary Hoke, RR 3, senior business education major; Linda Hollond, RR 2 freshman business education major Judy Kanitz, 404 N. Ohio, junior mentally retarded area major; Martha Nunn, 801 N. Ohio, senior blind area major; Carol Scheu, 203 S. Washington, freshman elementary education major; Marjorie Todd, 400 S. Ohio, freshman blind area major; Madonna Wilhelm, 500 E. Overton, sophomore special education major.

From Villa Grove: Susan McNussen, senior Spanish major.

From Arcola: Donna Bartholomew Nelsen, senior elementary education major; Jo Seaman, senior agriculture major.

From Camargo: Joseph Overturf, sophomore malajusted area major.

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er, Kirklin, Indiana, who was a member of the Prairie Dusters in 1944-45; Charles Knerr and Curly Rogers of Decatur; Leo Hadley who had a long run of 9 years from 1930 to 1939 as a piano player and singer;

Troy Gibbs, Valley Station, Ky., who was a member of the screw ball club in 1941-42; Gerry Cossena, Jacksonville, an engineer at the station from 1937 to 1939; Claud Gibbs, Granite City, a Stamps Baxter quartet member in 1941; Katie Carlen, Mattoon, Gloria McClure, Springfield, and Rosie McMorris, Tuscola, who appeared in 1938 as the Dunn Sisters; Goldie Hudson, Charleston, a member of the Drifting Ramblers; Hader Smith, Terre Haute, a 1938 personality; Betty Poulton, St. Louis, who appeared from 1939 to 1942 as "The Farmers Daughter"; Ray Livesay, Mattoon, who started with WDZ in 1934; Merle Trowbridge, Tuscola, who was a member of the Blue Moon Ramblers in 1934;

Varie Baxter, Newman, a 1932 personality; Bob Parker, Champaign, an announcer from 1936 to 1939; Jane Boyd, a vocalist from Broadwell, Ill., who appeared from 1943 to 1945; and Albert Walls of Effingham who appeared in 1945 and '46.

"Tuscola Radio Day" was sponsored by Tuscola American Business Club, the Tuscola Chamber of Commerce and Glen Clawson of Shelbyville who served as coordinator. Clawson was instrumental in making sure that all former WDZ family received notification of the event.

THIS ATTRACTIVE TRIO appeared on WDZ in 1938 as The Dunn Sisters. They are, from left, Gloria McClure, Springfield; Rosie McMorris, Tuscola; and Katie Carlen, Mattoon.

OPENING THE TUSCOLA Radio Day program was this group led by Mrs. Bertha Bratton who appeared on WDZ with the Milby Family. Mrs. Bratton (violin) is now the state champion lady fiddle player. Others in the photo are (from left) Gilbert Smith, Terra Haute; Georgana Gire, Camargo; Hooter Smith, Terre Haute; Mrs. Bratton, and her son Dave Bratton at the piano.

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MORE EVERY DAY
LOW PRICES

A RADIO FEATURE

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A RADIO FEATURE

Jimm Seaney in a life of radio

vertising that the station would have gone broke, had it paid all of the earned commissions.

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Ray was in radar in the Navy during World War II and immediately after his return from service, returned to radio.

As soon as was humanely possible, he founded WLBH in Mattoon, going on the air on November 26, 1946. He now al-

A RADIO FEATURE

Livesay enjoys most success

early to the American ies most determined to audience.

month of August.

On August 1 the service and August 29, Presbyterian Church.

"Smiley's" Daughter Content As Housewife

HONORED GUESTS at Tuscola Radio Day were, from left, Mrs. Jas. L. Bush, owner of radio station WDZ, Gregory Chapman and Mitchell Chapman, Grandsons of former WDZ star Smiley Burnette, and Mrs. Carolyn Burnette Chapman, youngest daughter of the radio, television and movie star. The Chapman family drove to Tuscola from Ohio to attend the initial Tuscola Radio Day which was held as a memorial to Smiley.

"Kiss your elbow and you can have a pony," is one of the comments Carolyn Burnette Chapman remembers best about her father, the famed Smiley Burnette. "All of us, my brothers, sister, and I were always crazy to have a pony," Mrs. Chapman recalls, "but we never got one and we were all pretty big before we realized it is impossible to kiss ones elbow."

Carolyn, youngest daughter of the late Smiley Burnette, has led an interesting and exciting life during her 29 years. She spent several of her teenage years traveling with her father who was at that time making personal appearances all over the United States.

When asked if she missed show business an emphatic "no" was the answer. She is quite happy to be "just a housewife" and rear the Chapman's two sons, Gregory 8, and Mitchell 7.

During her years with her father, Carolyn was in charge of bookings, finding the shortest routings from one appearance to the next, and the distribution of many thousands of photos of Smiley as "Frog Millhouse". "We used to spend our Saturdays and Sundays printing those photographs," she stated. "We often ran off 3,000 on Sunday."

While discussing her travels it was quite evident that Carolyn had a deep love for her father. Of Tuscola Radio Day, she remarked, "Dad must have done something right to have this many people interested in him."

"I am thankful to settle down now. After touring 42 states for many years, travel no longer holds the glamor it once did. I recall riding an elephant

(Cont. On Page 10)

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WRH

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tablished KWSR radio t Rifle, Colorado, as a from the film company ow quite busy with this se.

married to the former Ann Logan and they o sons, Steve 10 and

active in all around vic affairs and was Broadcaster of the

A RADIO FEATURE

Makes a name in radio industry

Adlai C. Ferguson Jr. of Paris hasn't been very much involved in Tuscola radio but he is from the Tuscola area and has made quite a name for himself in the industry in other areas.

He was born in Arthur but the family later moved to Tuscola. He was married October 6, 1942 to Marjorie J. Weber of Tuscola.

He served three years as a pilot in the U. S. Air Force during World War II. Upon his return from service, the couple established their home in Tuscola and Mr. Ferguson went into business here.

He left here in 1950 to go to Paris, where he organized, established and built radio station WPRS. He is president and general manager of the Paris Broadcasting Corporation, the operating entity for the station.

He was recently honored by the Paris chamber of commerce for 20 years of service to the community in this capacity.

He has built two other radio stations, one in Terre Haute and one in Tacoma, Washington. He has also engaged in other profitable business enterprises.

He and Mrs. Ferguson reside at 9 Janice Avenue, Paris.

They have three children, Sandra Lynn Wheeler, Springfield; Karen A., Ferguson, a student at SIU; and Jan D. Ferguson, at home.

THE CANDID CAMERA. Waiting to go on. Beauty contestants in the Douglas county queen pageant chat backstage before appearing in the swim suit phase of the competition. The reader should agree that, any way you look at it, the young ladies were indeed beautiful and a delightful sight for the eyes.

ADVERTISE IN THE JOURNAL

WRH

Tuscola, Illinois. Population 2800.

W D.Z was started by Jas. L. Bush, a grain broker, in March 1921 for the purpose of broadcasting the Chicago grain and Live stock markets to the farmers and country elevator men. This is the first station that ever broadcast grain and live stock markets and created quite a sensation in the grain trade. The first transmitter was a 1/2 watt Deforrest, the next one was a 10 watt General electric, and the third was a 10 watt Radio Corporation of Am. The fourth is the large one in this photo built by the operator Norwood for a 100 watt but actually was only 25 watts. The De Forrest transmitter is not shown in the photo. W.D.Z is the third oldest broadcasting station in the U.S and has been operated continuously ever since. It was sold to the WDZ Broadcasting Co., on December 1st., 1935. It was made a 250 watt station in March 1936 and is 1000 watts now.

TUSCOLA RADIO SUPPLY STATION
Jobbers for Radio Corporation of America
TUSCOLA, ILLINOIS

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WRH

USE Journal CLASSIFIED ADS

For whatever you need!

Buy - Sell - Rent - Trade - Announce - Give Notice

FOR SALE 1

REE — half Beagle puppies. t weaned. Call 837-2321. Rube ine, Murdock. 28-2c

unk's Antiques and Used niture, Camargo. Open day, Tuesday, Thursday, ay and Saturday, 9 a.m. p.m. Evenings and Sunday noons by appointment. e 832-5155. 33-tf

tique furniture, glass. etc. 7 days, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. er's Bee Ranch, Newman, is. 25-tf

e Cones for decorations. sale to commercial users, to worthy causes. Phone 11. 23-tf

ts, saddles, tack. Haines e Shop. Camargo, Illinois. Water Tower.) Open daily 9; Sunday 1 to 5. Phone 21. 34-tfc

third ton room air-condi- s for sale. $50 & up while ast. Cooper Motel, Tus- 20-tf

Orchard Antiques. An- furniture, glass and col- les. Open seven days a 6 South Broadway, New- Illinois. 28-4c

sale — Two bedroom e home, 12x60 with wall l carpeting, walnut panel- ith white birch bedroom, cado fixtures with double bathroom, much storage, al air conditioning. Priced t. Lot can be rented. Roger Phone 837-2128. 28-2p

WANTED 3

bysitting wanted, evenings Phone Theresa Weaver, 18. 28-2c

hest Prices paid for Anti- Phone 837-2377. Bender's Ranch, Newman, Illinois. 25-tf

DIETRICH

lectric Service

ING — REPAIRING

E 36 and SOUTH COURT

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TISE IN THE JOURNAL

LLIS SERVICE

APPLIANCES

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vinator Appliances -

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Phone 253-3712

TIMMONS DRIVE

uscola, Illinois

Wanted - Two or more horses to board - summer months $15.00. Winter months - $30.00. Excellent facilities 4 acres grass. For details call James Spiker, 253-2608. 28-2p

6 SERVICE 6

Interior and exterior painting. Reasonable rates. For information, call 253-4563. Ron Waugh. 16-tf

Weddings or special occasions. Color coverage included "Mood", "Misty" and candid shots. Paul Fleener Photo. "A Business with a Click", at Hammond, Illinois. Phone 262-3293. 8-tf

J. L. (Pete) Welborn, Piano Technician. Tuning, repairing, regulating. 301 S. Niles, Tuscola, Phone 253-3196. 12-tf

Harlan Henderson, Auctioneer. Phone 253-3796, Tuscola. Complete auction service. 35-tf

I WILL REMODEL or make your repairs; see me about your construction needs. LYLE McCOLLAM, 815 East Short Street, phone 253-4516. 29-tf

7 REAL ESTATE

Mobile home owners. Now you can own your own lot in Prairie Meadow Mobile Estates. Payments low as $30.34 down, $30.34 a month. 8 per cent simple interest 10 years. $2500 total cash price. Many financing plans available. Located on 157 and 133 East in Arcola. For more information or appointment, call 268-4987. Herman Development Corporation. Box 246, Arcola, Illinois 61910 27-tf

10 Opportunity

BUILDERS - DEVELOPERS: Build 12 months a year. UNIBUILT HOMES are 95 percent complete when they leave the factory. Become a franchised Unibuilt dealer. Models on display. Call today for an appointment.

UNIBUILT STRUCTURES
Charleston, Illinois
(217)345-7002
29-1c

11 PERSONAL

Having a Drinking Problem? Contact Alcoholics Anonymous. Tuscola Group. Post Office Box 183, or P one Tuscola 253-3037; Arcola 268-4814; or Villa Grove 832-7142. 9-tf

SUBSCRIBE TO THE JOURNAL

GEORGE J. HETTINGER

Specialist in Heating, Cooling and Sheet Metal

604 EAST PEMBROKE
TUSCOLA, ILLINOIS

Church of Christ at corner of Court and Pembroke. Sunday Services: Bible Study 9:30; Church Services at 10:30, and at 7:00 p.m. 1-tf

12 Help Wanted

Fulltime maid wanted. Apply in person at Cooper's Motel. 51-tf

PLAYHOUSE COMPANY now hiring demonstrators to sell toys and gifts part time, now to December. Weekly paycheck; no delivering or collecting. Call collect or write. 3185 South Wheatland, Decatur. Phone 428-0289. 29 tf

Help wanted: Nurse aide, 3 to 11 shift, full time. The Arthur Home, phone 543-2312. 27-3c

What's Coming

Three family basement sale at 509 East Newkirk street, Tuscola. Starting 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 28-3c

Card of Thanks

CARD OF THANKS

The family of Fred H. Chandler wishes to express their sincere thanks to their wonderful neighbors, friends and relatives who were so kind and helpful during our time of sorrow. A great big thanks for the cards, flowers, food, and prayers. A special thanks to Dr. McDonnel and nurses of St. Elizabeth Hospital and Dr. Gonwa. May God Bless you all.

Mrs. Fred H. Chandler
and Lynn
Mr. & Mrs. Lowell Chandler
and family
Mr. & Mrs. Dale H. Froman
and family
The Ralph Dague family

MORE 4-H WINNERS
POULTRY AND RABBIT

Blue Ribbon winners in poultry were: Mark McQueen, Rolfe Cordts. Red Ribbon winners were Patricia Sears, Rolfe Cordts.

Blue Ribbon winners in Rabbits: Steve McQueen (Grand Champion), Kevin Davis, Jana Eyestone, Doug Bennett, Jim Young, Kevin Davis, Brent Gilpin, Steve McQueen, Mark McQueen, Jana Eyestone, Doug Bennett, Kevin Davis, Steve McQueen, Mark McQueen, Jana Eyestone, Doug Bennett, Jim Young, Kevin Davis, Brent Gilpin, Steve McQueen, Mark McQueen, Jana Eyestone, Doug Bennett, Jim Young, Kevin Davis, Brent Gilpin, Steve McQueen, Mark McQueen, Jana Eyestone, Doug Bennett, Jim Young; Red Ribbon winners: Brent Gilpin, Jim Young; Champion Litter—Kevin Davis; Showmanship— Jana Eyestone.

DAIRY

Showmanship—Mark Baxter; Champion Female—Byron Baxter; Blue Ribbons— Mark Baxter; Bryon Baxter; Red Ribbon —Byron Baxter.

TRACTOR SAFETY DRIVING

Champion Driver, Rick Reinhart; First place, Class 1—Bill Morris. Blue Ribbon win-

This is WDZ in Tuscola, Illinois

By RAY NEMEC
1631 Carol, Downers Grove, Ill.

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To get a job as WDZ sportscaster in 1940, Jack Peterson had to pass what he believes was the toughest audition ever conveived. Some 243 completely green announcing aspirants were put through all sorts of tests in a series of on-the-air auditions which spread over a period of six or seven weeks.

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Ruth Moore, a WDZ employee for 20 years, had what is believed to be the most complete file of information and pictures of WD Zand its staff members for the period the station operated from Tuscola.

Ruth Moore died August 2, 1968, but she still lives in the hearts of many people in central Illinois who listened in each day to Aunt Ruthie's Birthday Party. She received over a million letters in the sevent years on the program. On other programs, sh olayed her harmonica and teamed with a hillbilly singer named Smiley Burnette.

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POULTRY AND RABBIT

Blue Ribbon winners in poultry were: Mark McQueen, Rolfe Cordts. Red Ribbon winners were Patricia Sears, Rolfe Cordts.

Blue Ribbon winners in Rabbits: Steve McQueen (Grand Champion), Kevin Davis, Jana Eyestone, Doug Bennett, Jim Young, Kevin Davis, Brent Gilpin, Steve McQueen, Mark McQueen, Jana Eyestone, Doug Bennett, Kevin Davis, Steve McQueen, Mark McQueen, Jana Eyestone, Doug Bennett, Jim Young, Kevin Davis, Brent Gilpin, Steve McQueen, Mark McQueen, Jana Eyestone, Doug Bennett, Jim Young, Kevin Davis, Brent Gilpin, Steve McQueen, Mark McQueen, Jana Eyestone, Doug Bennett, Jim Young; Red Ribbon winners: Brent Gilpin, Jim Young; Champion Litter—Kevin Davis; Showmanship— Jana Eyestone.

DAIRY

Showmanship—Mark Baxter; Champion Female—Byron Baxter; Blue Ribbons— Mark Baxter; Bryon Baxter; Red Ribbon —Byron Baxter.

TRACTOR SAFETY DRIVING

Champion Driver, Rick Reinhart; First place, Class 1—Bill Morris. Blue Ribbon winners were: Bob Snider, Steve Arthur, Art Snider, Rick Reinhart, Jim Snider. Winners of Red Ribbons were: Kimberley Hawkins, Ken Hausman, Jim Snider, Ken Hausman, Art Snider.

CLEAN PEN AWARDS:

Swine—Alan Dorjahn; Sheep —Darrel Thompson; Dairy—Baxter Bros.; Beef— Mike Sears; Horses—Judy Riggins.

The winner of the APRIL SEAMAN MEMORIAL TROPHY was Lyle Dorjahn, Atwood.

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agement felt Quinlan was not a good 'radio' name.

WDZ has had many famous personalities who claim the station was the first step in their careers.

The story of WDZ in Tuscola, the many great announcers who appeared before its microphones, could fill the pages of a book.

Ruth Moore, a WDZ employee for 20 years, had what is believed to be the most complete file of information and pictures of WD Zand its staff members for the period the station operated from Tuscola.

Ruth Moore died August 2, 1968, but she still lives in the hearts of many people in central Illinois who listened in each day to Aunt Ruthie's Birthday Party. She received over a million letters in the sevent years on the program. On other programs, sh played her harmonica and teamed with a hillbilly singer named Smiley Burnette.

The story of Tuscola's WDZ and its entertainers should be told. It was a great era in radio and WDZ was there helping to make it even better.

Many are still active in radio today.

Clair Hull owns KCID, Caldwell, Idaho. Fran Booton is the news director at WEAU, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and Walter Schaefer is salesmanager at WJPF, Herrin, Illinois. Some of the old entertainers such as Curt Poulton, Clara Mae Barton and Lazy Jim Day are now deceased. Some are still active in the entertaining field. Billy Scott is in Ohio and Johnny Barton does a TV program on a number of stations in central Illinois.

Paul Groves, one of the all time favorites, now farms in Jasper county, Illinois, and doing fine the last time I talked to him. Milt Dickey, another popular favorite, is now an all-night disc jockey on KCMO, in Kansas City, Missouri. There are hundreds more who appeared before the microphones of WDZ when the station carried live programs all day long.

Maybe someday a story can be written telling the complete story of this station and its staff. Few stations have enjoyed the acceptance that WDZ had with its listeners which all began 50 years ago when the "World's Pioneer Grain Market Station" first took to the air.

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From Tuscola
Vukelich, Jame
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Tonne, Oscar
Baer, Thomas
Patton, Ada
Micheala McG
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Wulliman, R. C. 1-1-72
504 East Scott Street

Radio Round-up Of

WDZ Staff Members

BY RAYMOND J. NEMEC
1631 Carol, Downers Grove, Ill.

Former WDZ entertained and workers I have known. Notes are from listening to the station and looking at program schedules:

Arthur, George, entertainer. probably joined in 1940, left in 1941.

Barry, Bob, entertainer. An accordionist. Joined December 1945, left June 1946, returned in March 1947, left summer 1947.

*Barton, Clara Mae, entertainer, wife of John, joined station late 1930's, left July 1942, returned October 1943, left in June 1946.

Barton, John, entertainer, announcer. Joined late 1930's, left July 1942 (probably service) returned October 1943, left June of 1946. Originally the Barton family included John, Clara Mae & Bus Barton. Now at WHOW.

Barton, Bus, entertainer. Had a program of his own for awhile in 1940. Bus Barton was not his real name. Came from Springfield. *Belcher, Red, entertainer. Joined WDZ late 1930's, left spring 1941.

Bill, Chuck, announcer. Joined in August 1946, left in January 1947. Now works in Chicago ary 1947. Now works in Chicago.

Booton, Fran, announcer. 1st recall on WDZ in 1941, left in February 1947. Was program director. Last report in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Boyd, June, entertainer. Programs heard on: Farmerettes, Blue Ridge Mountai nGirls, the Sweethearts of the Trail, Prairie Dusters. Left in the summer of 1945.

Brady, Bill, announcer. Joined early 1944, left February 1, 1947. Rejoined station in Decatur.

Carr, John, announcer. Joined January 25, 1947, left in Mar. 1947.

Crow, Truman and Daughters — entertainers, joined summer of 1941, lft March 1942.
ed d0m,aHearirst-diLhFand.-¼

Dare, Larry, entertainer, was heard in March and April 1942.

Dean, Betty, entertainer, joined November 15, 1946, left January 1947.

Denver Dan, entertainer, accordionist. Joined December 29, 1947, left February 3, 1949.

Dickey, Milt, entertainer and announcer. On WDZ 1941 to late 1943, when he entered the service. Later joined KWTO and KCMO, where last reported as an all night disc jockey.

Edmundson, Bennie, entertainer. Apparentl yleft summer 1941. Later worked at KWTO.

Edwards, Don, announcer, pianist (last name was Boudreau) Joined summer 1943, left January 15, 1946.

English, Al, announcer. Joined summer 1945, left October of 1945.

Evans, Shirl, announcer, was newscaster and program director. Joined summer 1945, left summer 1947.

Evans, Wick, newscaster. Joined about January 1, 1948 & moved with thes station to Decatur in fall of 1949.

Fontaine, Dave, announcer. With station summer of 1945.

Freeman, Roy, entertainer-announcer. Blue Grass Roy joined station in 1929, left in '30, returned in November 1941, and left July 1, 1947.

Gray, Hugh, announcer. Join-

Lullaby Lester, entertainer. On station in 1942. Later sang on KMOX.

Lund, Jim, announcer. Joined March 1946, left August 1946. Also sang on Mymn Hour and Matinee Jamboree. Did morning newscasts.

Luthe, Darrell, entertainer. Joined 1943, left in 1944 to enter service, remained in the service.

Marr, Bob, announcer. Joined summer 1945, left November 1945.

Martin, Bonnie, entertainer. Joined June 1946, left November 1946. Returned February 1948, left summer 1948.

*Martin, Eddie, entertainer. Played accordion, string instruments and sang. With WDZ in 1940-41. Left 1941 to go to WNAX, Yankton, South Dakota. Killed in service in 1945.

Mautz, Lou, announcer. Sunday announcer December 1948 to April 1949.

*McDonald, Larry, announcer from July 1947 to December 1948.

McKnight, Bob, announcer in spring of 1945.

Miller, Bill, announcer. To WDZ November 1, 1945, left February 8, 1947. (Correct name Wilbert Wobus). Born in 1921 in Missouri. Later was at WMMJ, WHOW, WJOB.

Mills, Bob, entertainer. He played piano and accordion. Joined in 1940, left January of 1943. Later on WOWO for years.

Mitchell, Harry D., announcer. Worked at WDZ in June and July 1947.

Moore, Bob, entertained. He joined in fall of 1942, left in February 1947. Later on WCIL and WHOW.

Moore, Ed, announcer. At station in April and May 1946.

Moorhead, Mary Lou, entertainer. On station spring 1943 and left from January to Aug-

and left in April 1946. Went back to the Ozarks (KWTO). The Rae Sisters had their own program at 8 a.m. The trio was knownn as the Sagebrush Serenaders.

Ridgeway, Charles, announcer. Joined July 1947, left in February 1949.

Rivers, Monty, entertainer. Joined in summer 1945, left in December 1945.

Roberts, Marty, entertainer. First on the station in an act in the 1930's. Returned January 1947 and stayed with the station when it moved to Decatur in 1949.

Robertson, Lonnie and Thelma, husband and wife act, to WDZ May 1, 1946, left January 18, 1947.

Rogers, Curley, entertainer. Joined March, left early summer, 1947.

Ross, Ted, announcer. Here January to August 1947.

Scott, Billy, entertainer. To WDZ 1943, left to enter Navy in January 1945, returen January 15, 1947, left March 25, 1947.

Smith, Harry, announcer. To WDZ April 1948, went to Decatur when station moved.

Seaney, Jimm, announcer From 1951 to 1958. Now at Rifle, Colorado.

Swanson, Joe, announcer. At station six months in 1945.

Tober, William, farm director. May 1, 1945 to July 1947.

Taylor, Tom, announcer. To WDZ September 1947, left in April 1948.

Tighe, Al, announcer. Come to WDZ in February 1945, left after six weeks. Last known on WSTP-TV.

Walls, Al, entertainer. Played violin, brother of Fay, on station December 1945 to March 1946.

Walls, Fay, entertainer. He played violin, guitar and sang.

---

the Hi-Quality Hatchery, owned by the Kennedy Brothers in Newman.

Boys selected to attend the Agricultural school at the State Fair in Springfield included Ed Skidmore, William J. Quinlan, William S. Burgett, Fred and Kenneth Senters, Carl Sipler, Ronald Martin,

Billy Lowman, George Hackleman, Verlon Davis, and Robert VanRheedan.

Miss Jean Seip, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Merle Seip, accepted a position as stenographer in the insurance office of R. J. N. Johnson. Miss Loie Cooch, formerly with Mr. Johnson, accepted a similar position in the Farm Loan office.

The marriage of Owen Cornwell and Olive Lewis Gasser took place in Paris.

The Alvah Adams construction company of Paris started work on the subway west of Tuscola.

Mel Ross, former Tuscola high school and James Milliken university athlete, was appointed head coach at Oakwood Township high school.

Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Sprinkle of Villa Grove were honored by an informal gathering of their children and her sisters in observance of their 25th wedding anniversary.

Clarence E. Rogers, high school coach, was appointed by the board of education to act as superintendent at the Atwood high school.

Verde Morris and Eva Mae Golden, both of Brazil, Indiana, were united in marriage by Reverend E. H. Sauer.

5 YEARS AGO

AUGUST 4, 1966

The barn on the Dale Cooch farm, three miles north east of Atwood was destroyed by fire July 26, 1966. The cause was not determined.

Mike Morris, four year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Phil Morris, was hurt in a two car collision that occured July 29.

The elevator of the Villa Grove farmers grain company was totally destroyed by fire July 29, 1966.

The wedding of LeAnn Kresin and Charles Benner was held July 31, 1966 in the Immanuel Lutheran church of Tuscola.

Howard E. Connour of Tuscola was promoted June 30, 1966 to the rank of Specialist Fourth class in the U. S. Army.

William Ziegler of Tuscola was treated and released at Christie Clinic, Champaign, following an accident on July 28.

Airman second Class Danny L. Willadson was serving with the U. S. Air Force in Vietnam.

Deaths: Ralph Teeters, Mrs. Mary Mae Williams, Mrs. Pearle Long, Mrs. Diane Le Crone, Raymond Grissom, W. H. Owen, James H. Popejoy, Mrs. Augusta Klockenbrink, Mrs. Hester Baker, Mrs. Esther E. Christiansen, and Mrs. Mae Lawhorn.

tion to Decatur.

Grove, Paul, entertainer. Began in November 1938, left in May 1941, returned in NovemberBay, 1941, returned in January 1944 and left in August of 1949.

Harrell, LaDonna, entertainer. Was heard in August and in September 1942.

Harris, Gene, announcer. He joined January 28, 1947, left in March 1947.

Hill, Ray, announcer. Joined summer 1947, left April 1948.

Hopkins, Country Cousin Chickie. Sang the news after Lazy Jim Day left the station. Believe to have joined WDZ in the spring of 1940, into the service in March 1942 for four years, then returnedw--'X danP-. then joined WIBC in spring 1946.

Jennings, Frank, entertainer. Accordionist, fiddler. With station several times, last July of 1946 to March 1947.

Johnson, Dippy, announcer & entertainer. Head of the 'Screwball Club'.. At station in 1940's Left to enter service. Now an insurance man in Columbia City, Indiana.

Karey, Jack, announcer. He joined February 10, 1947, left early summer 1947.

*Key, Kay, entertainer. With sister, Mary, formed the popular Key Sisters singing team. Died in July 1945.

Key, Mary, entertainer. Sister of Kay, married to Walter Schafer (announcer and manager) in October 1945. Originally heard in 1940, Kay left in January 1945 when she got married. Mary left October 1, 1945.

King, Larry tannounerc'h-¼,

King, Larry, announcer. Joined January 1946, left August of same year.

King, Roy, entertainer. Was with station in 1939 and 1940. Last heard as guest in 1945.

Lane, Larry, entertainer. Accordionist and singer. Joined late summer 1947, left in December.

Leonard, Jack, announcer. On station one month, December 1945.

Lindenmayer, Betty, entertainer. Played violin, guitar Came to station in 1943, left the summer of 1945.

Little Judy, entertainer. Joined April 1946, left in June 1946.

Morrison, Bob, announcer. January 1943 until entering the service April 1946. Sang on the afternoon Jamboree.

Nelson, Alice, entertainer. Teamed with sister, Jeri to form Nelson Sisters. On station late summer 1945 to December 31, 1945.

Nelson, Jeri, entertainer. See above.

Parker, Earl, announcer. A veteran announcer, Parker left in early 1945 to devote full time to his service station because of the manpower shortage. He later returned in September of 1946 to sing hymns. He sang symns on the Home Folks Hour.

Paulson, Norman, announcer. Had two brief stays on WDZ. Last one February 10 to March 1947. ...ow resides in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Piper, Bill, announcer. He joined in May 1949, left July 1949.

*Poulton, Curt, entertainer. Left in November 1942 and entered service. A favorite.

Quinn, Jack, announcer. His real name was Quinlan, which he used as the voice of the Cubs until his death in the '60's.

Rae, Clifford, Carma Lee & Corrine, entertainers. Popular act joined WDZ January 1, 1940 February 5, 1945.

Whittlespoon, Joe, entertainer. Fiddlin' Joe was on station from March to May 1945.

Wright, Wayne, entertainer. On staf from summer to mid-October 1945.

Emmerson, Byron, announcer and entertainer. Played piano and organ. From April 1946 to December 1947.

Lane, Lettie, entertainer. On station in the early 1940's. Was married to Fran Booton. Also heard in 'Pause For Worship' in 1945.

*Moore, Ruth, entertainer. Served in many capacities on station from 1927 to mid-1940's. Conducted Auntie Ruth's Birthday Party.

Price, Jack, entertainer. He played piano and organ. Summer of 1946.

Schafer, Walter. Announcer, program director, manager. He left September 30, 1945.

Weaver, Robyn, announcer.

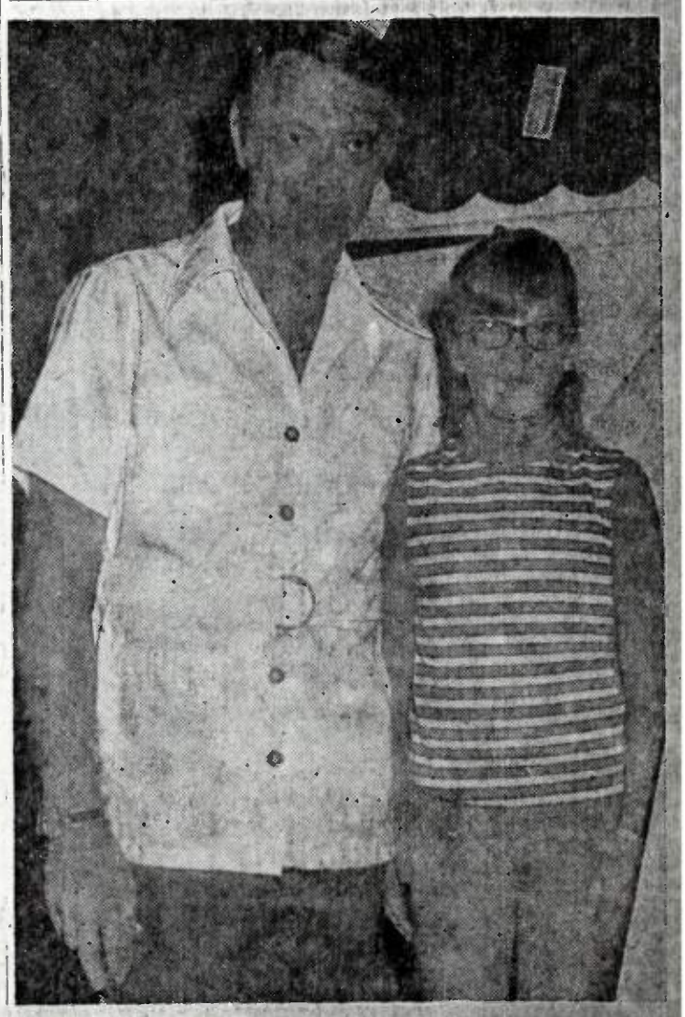
Russell, Maurice, announcer.

Clair Hull, general manager.

*Fisher, Hank, announcer. He did sportscast.

*Day, Lazy Jim, entertainer. Later was featured on 50,000 watt stations in Tennessee, W. Virginia, and Iowa.

* Deceased.



THE CANDID CAMERA Miss Kim Stephenson of Atwood, age 10, with her friend from Nashville, Tennessee, Mr. Boots Randolph. The picture was taken at the time of Mr. Randolph's appearance at the Douglas county fair. They both seem happy about it all. Kim is the daughter of Mrs. Eleanor Stephenson of Atwood. She is not related to any of the other Stephensons around Atwood, no doubt to their deep regret.

ONE OF THE TOP stars on station WDZ was Smiley Burnett, The late Mr. Burnett is shown in costume for his last TV production, Petti Coat Junction.

ks EPA Witness

ted and tornadoes in this area, due to
s once the heat and electric particles
fishing being discharged. Attorney
Lemna at this point asked
ment by Holl, "Don't you feel that a
consider- tornado is an act of God?"
among To which, Holl answered,
others "WHO IS GOD?"
This in turn caused Attor-
com- ney Lemna to say, "I have no
t the further questions of this wit-
caus- ness."
ase in

Panhandle Employees

Among Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line employees who estified Thursday morning was Richard Whitley who stated that he, as an interested citizen, had circulated a petition among the Panhandle employees. The petition requested that U.S.I. be required to stop the pollution of air and water.

The petition was signed by a number of employees and it was on the basis of these signatures that the employees were subpoenaed by E.P.A. Included were Sylvan Crole, John Burgner, Henry Rahn, Forrest Foreman, James Melton, Carl Wolverton and Robert Randolph. All gave nearly identical testimony . . . that they had signed a petition which stated they had seen emissions from stacks at U.S.I.; that fumes from U.S.I. caused their eyes to water; and, that there was a definite odor to the emissions.

However, all testified under cross examination that they would not have appeared at the hearing voluntarily, but came because they were subpoenaed. A number of other Panhandle employees present at the hearing were not called upon to testify.

Others called by EPA, who are alleged to have written letters in complaint to U.S.I. emissions were Mrs. Harold Wetzel, Harry Taylor, and Mrs. Ross Redder. Some testified that U.S.I. created 95 percent of all pollution near their homes; caused damage to their curtains; their shrubs; and various other properties.

Most became confused and contradicted themselves under cross-examination, however. One lady even admitted that perhaps their farm tractor was causing some pollution.

Among area farmers testifying were Harold Wetzel, Victor Rahn and Donald Willison. They admitted to crop damage from emissions at U.S.I. and stated they had applied for and in most cases received suitable payments for any damages.

Rahn proclaimed the hearings to be a form of Naziism of the late 1930's.

The hearings were adjourned Thursday and to be resumed July 12th.

The president of the Operating Engineers at U.S.I., Norman Hale, testified that his union represents 586 men. Of this membership, 361 have a total 1417 dependents and 247 of these dependents are attending college. Hale estimated that if these union members did not have work at USI, they would find it almost impossible to find work in this immediate area.

First witnesses during the hearing to protest the plant operation were Jan Jamison and his father Ira Jamison who operate a livestock market west of Tuscola on Route 36.

They described emissions from the plant on various dates and presented three exhibits of a metalic nature which allegedly bore the effects of emissions from the plant.

MONDAY TESTIMONY

A University of Illinois professor of plant pathology, Dr. Malcolm Shurtleff, was the first witness called Monday in the EPA's variance hearing against U.S. Industrial Chemicals. He testified he was called by Dale Bateman,

(Continued on page 17)

She recalls that Mr. Bush came to Tuscola from Paxton where he had attended grade and high school. As a young man he worked for the Illinois Central railroad as a telegrapher (at Paxton) and was enroute to Mattoon to accept another job when he made his first stop in Tuscola.

During the stopover he learned that the McGregor Brothers who operated a grain office here, needed a telegrapher. He accepted the position, cancelled his trip to Mattoon, and remained with the McGregors until they retired and turned the business over to him in 1900.

Mr. and Mrs. Bush were married in 1901. She then became a partner in business as well as life, including the forming of WDZ.

An employee, Claude Wylie, suggested to Mr. Bush, "If you will give me $5, I'll send to Sears and Roebuck and get a broadcasting set so we can start a radio station to send the markets out over the air."

This led to the installation of a 10 watt station which was expanded to 100 watts and finally to 1000 watts. Thus WDZ became the first station in the nation to carry a live broadcast of grain prices. There was a slight drawback in the beginning. Not enough elevators had receiving sets. The Westinghouse corporation was made aware of the situation and they immediately sent in six receivers which were given to elevator operators of the area. This form of market transmittal was so well accepted that Mr. Bush entered the business of wholesaling radios.

Mrs. Bush continued to assist her husband in the operation of the station. Her duties included the operation of the station, and she was often called upon to do the announcing. She recalls that Mr. Bush was very strict about the station being on the air at the exact time it was scheduled to be on the air. She also recalls that Mr. Bush was very strict about the station being off the air at the exact time it was scheduled to be off the air. She recalls that Mr. Bush was very strict about the station being on the air at the exact time it was scheduled to be on the air. She also recalls that Mr. Bush was very strict about the station being off the air at the exact time it was scheduled to be off the air.

Masons Holding Potluck Outing

Members of the 14th Eastern District Masonic Workers Club will hold a potluck picnic dinner for Master Masons and their families at the William Woods farm located 4½ miles east and one mile south of Tuscola July 25th.

The all-day event will include church services at 11 a.m., the dinner, and an afternoon of entertainment. Many Grand Officers are expected to attend and to speak.

The noon potluck will feature roast corn. All Masons and their families are asked to bring food, table service and chairs. Soft drinks will be provided by the Masonic Order.

Here."

The station flourished through the depression era, and was often considered the voice of country music for all of southern Illinois. In the late 1940's the station was moved to Decatur. A broadcast was conducted from Tuscola by Curtis Marsh after that. Another manager of the Tuscola branch was Mrs. June Foley. The Tuscola version was never quite the same after the station officially became known as Decatur property, however, and the broadcasts from Tuscola were halted.

A former entertainer, Glen Clawson of Shelbyville, has accepted the responsibility of notifying as many people connected with the station as possible. He states that many have already acknowledged the invitation to appear here July 18, and that others are expected to "just show up." Clawson and his son Gerald appeared on WDZ as "The Lad and His Dad" for many years.

Clawson continues, "I feel we should call this event Tuscola Radio Day, since this is where it all started . . . this is where the roots are."

Many of the entertainers still live in the Tuscola area. To name just a few: Rosie McMorris who appeared with two of her sisters under the billing of "The Dunn Sisters"; Mrs. Rosemary Overturf Nussel; Ralph "Red" Proffitt, Ted Cox, Curtis Marsh, Roy Freeman, George Barber, Keith Tingley and many others.

Freeman is to be honored July 16th in Renfro Valley, Ky., for his contribution to country and western music.

Many who planned to attend were saddened by the death of Clair B. Hull this past March. He had intended to attend.

While in Tuscola, the station was located above the present location of Carpenter's Clothing store and later moved across the street to the upstairs offices of The First National Bank Building.

One of the attractions of the 1930's was the radio station tower located northeast of Tuscola about two miles.

Raymond Muir of Tuscola, was the first announcer of grain markets on WDZ. He was followed by Curtis Marsh. Kay Lake of Tuscola served as secretary to several of the station managers. Mrs. Nussel had a news and music program as early as 1934, and many local residents are personally acquainted with Ray Livesay of Mattoon who was with the station for many years. Livesay now is active in the Mattoon radio station.

Another Douglas county resident who is still active in radio in Wisconsin is former Newman native Fran Boot, known as Fran Bootan.

A large attendance is expected for this event. Mrs. Bush hopes to be able to attend for most of the day and to meet many of her old friends. The public is invited to attend and participate in the festivities.

At The County Fair

Award Winners

Duane Baker; Cheviot Ewe—Byron Baxter; Corriedale Ewe—Debbie Dilliner; Hampshire Ewe—Marcia Lyons; Shropshire Ewe—David Albin; Suffolk Ewe—Darrel Thompson; Cheviot Flock—Don Payne; Corriedale Flock—Debbie Dilliner; Hampshire Flock—Marcia Lyons; Shropshire Flock—David Albin; Suffolk Flock—Darrel Thompson. Other Blue Ribbon winners were: Leo Walker, Don Payne, Earl Baker, Byron Baxter, Mark Baxter, Leo Walker, Don Payne, Tom Lyons, Mark Aschermann, Robert Quick, Darrel Thompson, Earl Baker, Mark Baxter, Leo Walker, Don Payne, Tom Lyons, Mark Aschermann, Duane Baker, Earl Baker, Bryon Baxter, Mark Baxter, Leo Walker.

Tom Lyons, Mark Aschermann, Duane Baker, Earl Baker, Bryon Baxter, Debbie Dilliner, Marcia Lyons, Duane Baker, David Albin, Darrel Thompson, Mark Aschermann, Don Payne, Debbie Dilliner, Marcia Lyons, Tom Lyons, Mark Aschermann, Duane Baker.

Winners of red ribbons were: Mark Baxter, Marcia Lyons, Mark Aschermann, Duane Baker, Frank Ousley, Robert Quick, Robert Quick, David Albin, Leo Walker, Leo Walker, Don Payne

BEEF

Grand Champion Steer—Mark Tuttle; Grand Champion Female—Mark Tuttle; Senior Showmanship — Jim Reeder; Junior Showmanship—Shelly Steer—Steve Arthur; Champion Jumper; Champion Angus Charolais Steer—Mark Tuttle; Champion Hereford Steer—Mark Tuttle; Champion Shorthorn Steer—Jim Reeder.

First place winners: Angus Heavy Steer—Steve Arthur; Charolais Heavy Steer—Mark Tuttle; Charolais Light Steer—Dale Greathouse, Hereford Heavy Steer—Mark Tuttle; Shorthorn Heavy Steer—Jim Reeder; Angus Light Steer—Bill Schable, Ernie Revell, Jr.; Hereford Light Steer—Caroline Cook; Shorthorn Light Steer—Dale Greathouse; Junior Angus Calf—Beth Trimble; Senior Angus Calf—Beth Trimble; Hereford Senior Heifer Calf—Shelly Jumper; Shorthorn Senior Heifer Calf—Jim Reeder; Angus Summer Yearling Heifer—Mark Tuttle; Hereford Summer Yearling Heifer—Bill Schable; Shorthorn Summer Yearling Heifer — Jim Rutledge; Angus Junior Yearling Heifer — Beth Trimble; Hereford Junior Yearling Heifer—Bill Schable; Angus Heifer-Beth Schable; Angus Heifer — Beth Trimble; Champion Angus Female — Mark Tuttle; Champion Hereford Female — Shelly Jumper; Champion Shorthorn Female — Jim Reeder.

Other Blue Ribbon winners were: Mike Sears, Steve Arthur, Mike Sears, Dale Greathouse, Patricia Sears, Eddie

Cook, Kevin Rahn, Mark Sears, John Nacke, Jo Anne Revell, Mary Revell, Bill Schable, Dennis Joines, Mark Nacke.

HORSE AND PONY DIVISION:

High Point Trophies—Mike Swisher and Tom Lyons; Grand Champion Horse—Jo Huber; Reserve Champion Horse—Johne Huber; Grand Champion Pony—Roy Harris; Reserve Champion Pony—Cristal Henningsen. First place winners were: Saddle Horse at Halter (56 inches and over)—Jo Huber; Saddle Horse at Halter (Yearling & 2 year olds)—Jeannie Campbell; Mare (56 inches and over & foal)—Andy Huber; Ponies at Halter (46 inches to 56 inches)—Cristal Henningsen; Ponies at Halter (46 inches and under)—Roy Harris; Driving Class—Roy Harris; Barrel Race (50 inches and over)—Mike Swisher; Barrel Race (49 inches and under)—Tom Lyons; Pole Bending (50 inches and over)—Mike Swisher; Pole Bending (49 inches and under)—Tom Lyons; Flag Race (50 inches and over)—Cynthia Bateman; Flag Race (49 inches and under)—Tom Lyons; Speed and Action (50 inches and over)—Mike Swisher; Speed and Action 49 inches and under—Tom Lyons; Egg and Spoon 50 inches and over)—Kathy Romine; Egg and Spoon (49 inches and under)—Tom Lyons.

Other Blue Ribbon winners were: Jeannie Campbell, Roy Harris, Jamie Huber, Johne Huber, Ronald Stilley, Ann Bateman, Cristal Henningsen, Brian Henningsen, Andy Huber, Ann Bateman, Ronald Stilley, Cliff Ponder, Judy Riggins, Jeannie Campbell, Jami Huber, Johne Huber, Dave Foster, Michael Swisher, Donna Goodwin, Judy Riggins, Jami Huber, Brian Henningsen, Kathy Romine, Beverly Harris, Johne Huber, Donna Goodwin, Dianne Goodwin.

Winners of Red Ribbons were: Judy Riggins, Kathy Romine, Dave Foster, Beverly Harris, Mike Swisher, Cynthia Bateman, Sheri Warfel, Eric Foster, Jon Oye, Donna Goodwin, Dianne Goodwin, Tom Lyons, Kerry Harris, Pam Harting, Kathy Romine, Cindy Williams, Jo Huber, Sheri Warfel, Cynthia Bateman, Don Goodwin, Kathy Romine, Johne Huber, Donald Goodwin, Beverly Harris, Cristal Henningsen, Cristal Henningsen, Brian Henningsen, Kathy Romine, Dave Foster, Johne Huber, Donald Goodwin, Cristal Henningsen, Jeannie Campbell, Sheri Warfel, Cindy Williams, Mike Swisher, Cynthia Bateman, Dianne Goodwin, Jo Hober, Johne Huber, Tom Lyons, Brian Henningsen, Jo Huber, Johne Huber, Jon Oye, Pam Harting, Jeannie Campbell, Dave Foster, Sheri Warfel, Cindy Williams, Cynthia Bateman, Jon Oye.

THE CANDID CAMERA. Zero moment. Aspirants in the Douglas county beauty pageant confer with the master of ceremonies just before making their appearances in the big show. With them are Mrs. James Winningham and Mrs. Leona Hughes, the chaperones.

A RADIO FEATURE

Story of Edith and Jim Bush

Radio Station WDZ was a part of the empire of James L. M-uIos.... a T8pms½Aa Mzy and Edith Hamilton Bush.

It was probably the factor that made all the other parts succeed.

Mr. Bush was born November 16, 1873 near Cissna Park. As a youth, he had an ambition to learn telegraphy. He got a railroad job, learned the telegraphic code and soon became a station agent in Paxton.

There didn't seem to be enough challenge in this, so he became manager of a grain office in Paxton for Lamson Brothers, a firm that is still very much in business.

In 1899, he was on his way to Mattoon, where he heard there was a job opening.

He stopped in Tuscola to visit a friend and ended up taking a job here.

In 1901, he was married to Edith Hamilton, whose father, J. H. Hamilton, managed the telephone company and the electric light company. The young lady was a telephone operator in the employ of her father.

In 1905, Mr. Bush established the grain brokerage which still bears his name. G. Raymond Muir retired recently after working in the office for more than 50 years. Miss Martha Brown is continuing the business operation.

Mr. Bush was in various businesses during his lifetime and everyone seemed to succeed.

Being an auto dealer was one of his successful sidelines.

At the start of his career, Mr. Bush was aware of the importance of rapid communication. The use of radio had grown substantially in the military service during World War I.

Mr. Bush made the acquaintance of Clyde Wiley, a former signal corps radio operator. He encoouraged Mr. Wiley to build a transmitter and as a result, a 10 watt unit was built for the purpose of broadcasting grain reports to elevators in the area.

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nners: Angus Steve Arthur; y Steer—Mark s Light Steer— se, Hereford Mark Tuttle; Steer—Jim Light Steer— ie Revell, Jr.; teer—Caroline Light Steer— Junior Angus ble; Senior th Trimble; Heifer Calf— horthorn Sen- —Jim Reeder; arling Heifer ereford Sum- Heifer—Bill orn Summer — Jim Rut- nior Yearling rimble; Here- rling Heifer— us Heifer-Beth Heifer — Beth ion Angus Fe- tle; Champion — Shelly pion Shorthorn Reeder.

bon winners s, Steve Ar- Dale Great- Sears, Eddie Hacke, David , Jim Reeder, Trimble, Shelly

Red Ribbons Sears, Don Brian Henningsen, Andy Huber, Ann Bateman, Ronald Stilley, Cliff Ponder, Judy Riggins, Jeannie Campbell, Jami Huber, Johne Huber, Dave Foster, Michael Swisher, Donna Goodwin, Judy Riggins, Jami Huber, Brian Henningsen, Kathy Romine, Beverly Harris, Johne Huber, Donna Goodwin, Dianne Goodwin.

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MEMBER 1971 NEWSPAPER

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The station went on the air in 1921. Of course, the broadcasts were not of value unless there were radio receivers in the hands of listeners.

Mr. Bush remedied that. He entered the radio business and this snowballed during the '20's and became a million-dollar a year business until the demand was met.

Tuscola was a shipping point for the Bush radio business and the railroads prospered with all the business this generated.

The radio station WDZ was commercialized in 1929 and Mrs. Bush became manager. Prior to this, a radio station could only advertise the owner's own business. Upon commercialization, advertising could be sold to other businesses. The enterprise prospered and Mrs. Bush was responsible for helping many entertainers, technicians and executives get started on careers, including the most notable of all, the late Smiley Burnette.

The Bushes sold the station and retired in 1936 and WDZ was moved to Decatur in 1949.

Mr. Bush is now deceased but Mrs. Bush, a gracious lady with many interesting memories, still divides her time between Tuscola and Florida.

THE CANDID CAMERA. Miss Barbara Robertson of Arcola in her second appearance at the Douglas county fair queen contest. A sophomore in high school, Barbara was not only the youngest girl in the contest, she was also one of the most attractive. There can't be any quarrel with that, we are sure.

A LONG WAY. Contestants in the annual Douglas county fair pageant and journeyed a long way to get where they were. Each had to win out in a contest in her own home town over many other beautiful lassies to get to the county competition. A quick glance by the reader assures that they deserve to be where they are. Left to right, Misses Lovington, Atwood, Sul-

VIEW

Growing With The Times

Tuscola, Illinois, July 15, 1971

3 Sections, 22 Pages Today

eature Former WDZ Stars

MRS. EDITH BUSH will be honored this Sunday as WDZ Radio Day in Tuscola. Mrs. Bush is former owner of the station.

ONE OF THE TOP stars on station WDZ was Smiley Burnett, The late Mr. Burnett is shown in costume for his last TV production, Petti Coat Junction.

One of the most unique reunions in history will be held in Tuscola Sunday, July 18, when former WDZ stars and their admirers gather to relive the past, strum out a few tunes, and just generally have a good old fashioned hoedown.

The event is being called simply, Radio Day, and is expected to become an annual affair if the anticipated amount of interest is shown. This initial reunion is being held in memory of one of the stations outstanding stars, the late Smiley Burnett, and Mrs. Edith Bush, who along with her husband founded the station in 1921. At that time there were only two other stations on the air, making WDZ (now located in Decatur) the third oldest station in the nation.

This 50th anniversary of the station will be a replica of the old-time music festivals WDZ entertainers used to bring picnic lunches like they did in olden days. A food concession stand will be manned by Tuscola Ambucs who along with the Tuscola Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring this golden anniversary observance.

Naturally one of the most competent sources of information about the Tuscola stations is Mrs. J. L. Bush who now resides in Tuscola.

She recalls that Mr. Bush came to Tuscola from Paxton where he had attended grade and high school. As a young man he worked for the Illinois Central railroad as a telegrapher (at Paxton) and was enroute to Mattoon to accept another job when he made his first stop in Tuscola.

During the stopover he learned that the McGregor Brothers who operated a grain office here, needed a telegrapher. He accepted the position, cancelled his trip to Mattoon, and remained with the McGregors until they retired and turned the business over to him in 1900.

Mr. and Mrs. Bush were married in 1901. She then became a partner in business as well as life, including the forming of WDZ.

An employee, Claude Wylie, suggested to Mr. Bush, "If you will give me $5, I'll send to Sears and Roebuck and get a broadcasting set so we can start a radio station to send the markets out over the air."

This led to the installation of a 10 watt station which was expanded to 100 watts and finally to 1000 watts. Thus WDZ became the first station in the nation to carry

eration of the grain office until it became evident the radio station needed a full-time manager. She then accepted this responsibility.

Smiley Burnett joined WDZ in 1926 and the station was commercialized in 1929, with the selling of advertising. The late Miss Ruth Moore joined the WDZ staff as assistant manager in 1930. She also conducted a talk and music show known as Aunt Ruthie's Hour.

Smiley left WDZ in 1935 to join Gene Autry in both personal appearances and the flicks. Mrs. Bush recalls when Smiley wrote "Mommmy Don't Allow No Music Played in Here." This was just one of the many hits composed by the various entertainers who passed through WDZ portals over the years. Mrs. Bush was the sounding board for many of these songs. She decided the playing of these untried tunes disrupted the grain office operation and set aside one room for song writing and practice sessions.

This gave Smiley his hit song idea. Since Mrs. Bush was affectionately called "Mom" by many of the entertainers, and since she did not want music played in the grain office, the idea was born for "Mommy Don't Allow No Music Played In Here."

The station flourished through the depression era, and was often considered the voice of country music for all of southern Illinois. In the late 1940's the station was moved to Decatur. A broadcast was conducted from Tuscola by Curtis Marsh after that. Another manager of the Tuscola branch was Mrs. June Foley. The Tuscola version was never quite the same after the station officially became known as Decatur property, however, and the broadcasts from Tuscola were halted.

A former entertainer, Glen Clawson of Shelbyville, has accepted the responsibility of notifying as many people connected with the station as possible. He states that many have already acknowledged the invitation to appear here July 18, and that others are expected to "just show up." Clawson and his son Gerald appeared on WDZ as "The Lad and His Dad" for many years.

Clawson continues, "I feel we should call this event Tuscola Radio Day, since this is where it all started . . . this is where the roots are."

Many of the entertainers