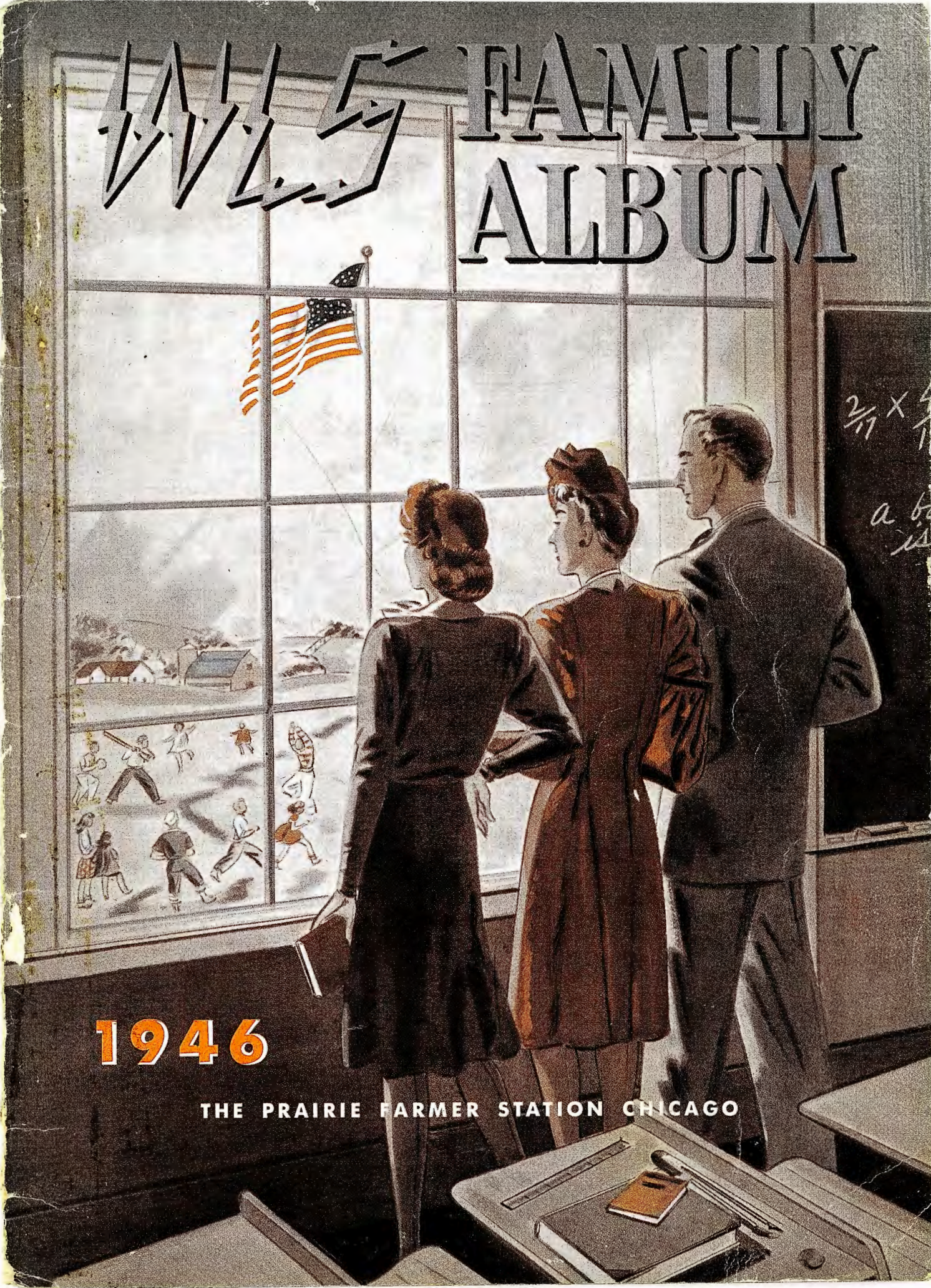


WLS FAMILY ALBUM



1946

THE PRAIRIE FARMER STATION CHICAGO



WLS

**FAMILY
ALBUM**

1946

Published by PRAIRIE FARMER, 1230 Washington Boulevard, Chicago 7, Illinois

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SINCE we met here a year ago, the world has marched out of war and into peace. It is as if we had been climbing a long hill, but have come to the top. Stretching far ahead is the future. We cannot see all of it distinctly. But we at Prairie Farmer-WLS join our hopes with yours, that beginning with this year 1946, men of good will shall prove the tremendous power of kindness, and the happiness that comes from willingness to serve others.

GREETING

You and we are a solid group of people. We understand each other. With this year 1946, Prairie Farmer begins its One Hundred Sixth year, WLS completes its Twenty-Second year. In all these years we have kept in step.

Difficulties and sorrows have come, but we have met them together. Some of our boys have come home, some are yet to come, and some will not be coming back. Burdens and heartaches that would have been too heavy to bear alone, have been lightened by the cheery word, the outstretched hands of friends who understand. Together we have pressed forward toward the vision of a better day.

The scene on the cover of this Album portrays the spirit of this new day. Our children at school, healthy, happy, sheltered by Old Glory, hold all of our hopes for the future. If you would see the next generation of American citizens, stand beside the father and mother and teacher pictured here, and look at the children in your school. Next to the home and the church, it is our most precious institution.

We thrill at the things that are to come. May each of us, you and we, prove worthy as we face the future together.



Our Chief, Burrige D. Butler

If you have read *Prairie Farmer*, or have listened very long to WLS, you know a good deal about Mr. Butler. He has many mottoes, but one of the most characteristic is, "Let's start something!" And when something gets started in the morning, he expects it to be well under way by afternoon. Always, in making plans, Mr. Butler takes the side of the reader and listener. "Do the thing that's right, play square, follow the dictates of your heart, and you can't fail." That is the attitude on which the policies and plans of *Prairie Farmer*-WLS are founded.



Glenn Snyder

The words "Public Interest, Convenience and Necessity" might well be placed over the door of Mr. Snyder's office. He has simplified the settlement of many an argument by the question, "Will this serve our listeners?" Mr. Snyder is the son of a country blacksmith, and on the wall of his office is a panel displaying horseshoes forged by his father. Under his direction, the staff of WLS works constantly toward bigger and better plans for serving the listeners of the Middle West.



Harold Safford

Harold is one of the veterans in radio, having been a newspaper editor, an orchestra leader, and for a good many years program director. Few men in radio have more highly developed the "sixth sense" by which a program director knows what it takes to reach an audience. Likes to borrow a violin occasionally to prove he can still play it.

Al Boyd

The word "production," as applied to radio programs, covers everything from auditioning new talent to being ready for an instantaneous change of schedule in an emergency. If an announcer is sick, ask "production." If world-shaking news starts coming, calling for more time for the news department, "production" will arrange it. Al is also chairman of the committee which handles the Christmas Neighbors Club.



Treasurer George Cook

While the duty of a treasurer deals primarily with finances, here at WLS there are many other things George Cook has been concerned with. Keeping a very close watch on programs and all activities, he has had much to do with formation of station policies.



Assistant Treasurer John Allen

John has the pleasant duty of writing checks, which makes him a very popular man around payday. He also has a great deal to do with planning budgets, which are necessary to make ends meet.



Sales Department

The sales department at WLS is responsible for keeping enough commercial advertising on the air to pay expenses and keep the station running.

In the picture below, at the left, A. N. (Pete) Cooke. In front, seated, Sales Manager Charles (Chick) Freeman. Standing beside him is Joe Kaspar. Of the two standing by the window, left is Dom Saraceno; right, Ray Betsinger. The two girls are, front, Dorothy Luce; back, Florence Amadry.

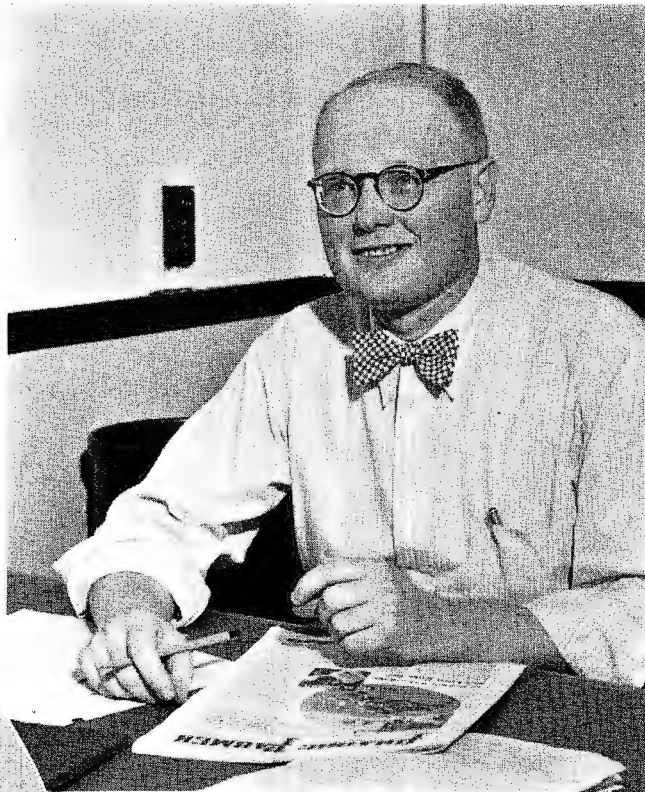


Editor Arthur Moore

New to *Prairie Farmer* in the year 1945 is Arthur Moore, Editor. Born in a country neighborhood in Nebraska, Mr. Moore had a varied experience as a newspaper man, and later became Editor of the Bloomington (Ill.) *Pantagraph*. After ten years of successful work there, he came to be Editor of *Prairie Farmer*.

Many people have known him through his book, "The Farmer and the Rest of Us," which was written largely around the people of McLean county, Illinois.

While he has seldom been heard on the microphone, Mr. Moore keeps in close touch with the radio work, and is called in consultation on many problems.

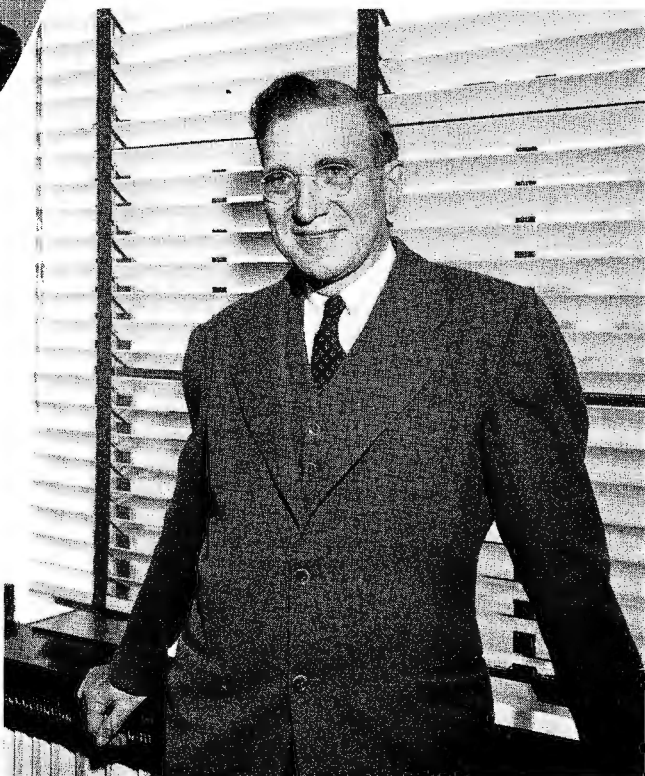


Managing Editor John Strohm

Originally from the "horseweed bottoms" of Clark county, Illinois, John has traveled in 50 or 60 countries, and is regarded as an authority on international subjects. As managing editor, he puts *Prairie Farmer* together.

Associate Editor Arthur Page

More than 15 years conductor of *Prairie Farmer's* Dinner Bell Program at noon, he is called "Art" by young and old throughout the Middle West. For a number of years has been WLS Farm Program Director, and at present acting director of educational programs on "School Time." Once wanted to be a doctor, and is member of his county board of health and author of school program series "Adventures in Health." Has a column in every *Prairie Farmer*.



Feature Editor Gladys Blair

Gladys (Mrs.) Blair is one of the busiest people around the place. She edits and writes the women's pages of *Prairie Farmer*, and goes out after special material for programs and articles. She is in charge of youth awards, of which *Prairie Farmer* has many in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan. She is heard on WLS every Thursday night at 6:15, finds time to be a skilled photographer, and to help raise a big garden at her home in the country. Graduate of the University of Illinois.



W. E. (Bill) Renshaw

Indiana Editor W. E. (Bill) Renshaw is a walking encyclopedia of the rural areas of Indiana and Southern Michigan. Only he doesn't walk—he drives and flies. With a background of practical experience, he has a deeply sympathetic understanding of farm problems, and is a tireless searcher for new information. You find his writings in every issue of *Prairie Farmer*, and you hear him occasionally on Dinner Bell Time.



Wendell Unfer

New on the staff this year, Wendell Unfer brings an unusual gift of mechanical understanding. From the farm he went into the Army, assigned to the medical corps. Later he was making final installations of equipment in giant aircraft. He'll help solve problems of farm buildings and equipment.

Della Loui

Wisconsin Editor Della Loui knows practically every acre of Southern and Central Wisconsin. In thousands of farm homes of that state she would be a welcome guest. Her writings appear in every issue of *Prairie Farmer*. Ask about notable men of that state and she will speak of them as "Chris" or "Jim" or "George."





Researcher Gunvor Johannesen

"Jo" digs for facts constantly and persistently. When you ask about the terms of a special lease, or of the GI Bill of Rights, or what variety of oats is recommended for your area, or how to raise pigeons or rabbits, "Jo" finds out. This is one of the special services to Prairie Farmer readers.

Protective Union Mollie Feldman

Quiet Mollie Feldman (center) sits at the center of activity in Prairie Farmer's Protective Union. Few people know as much about the history of confidence games and swindles as may be found in the files of this service department. The Protective Union has cooperated closely with local, state and federal authorities, and through the years has been a great power in the enforcement of honest dealing.



Eddie Cesal

The photographer caught Eddie with a heavy frown, but usually he is one of the best natured men around the place. He has to be, to tolerate all the worries of supervising the type-setting and make-up of Prairie Farmer and WLS publications.

Art Buch

When the big press in the basement rolls with each issue of Prairie Farmer, you can feel the vibration through the building. He doesn't play the guitar or sing, but when it comes to making a printing press do tricks, Art Buch is the boy who can do it. In order to get your Prairie Farmer out on time, the press often runs all night.





Management

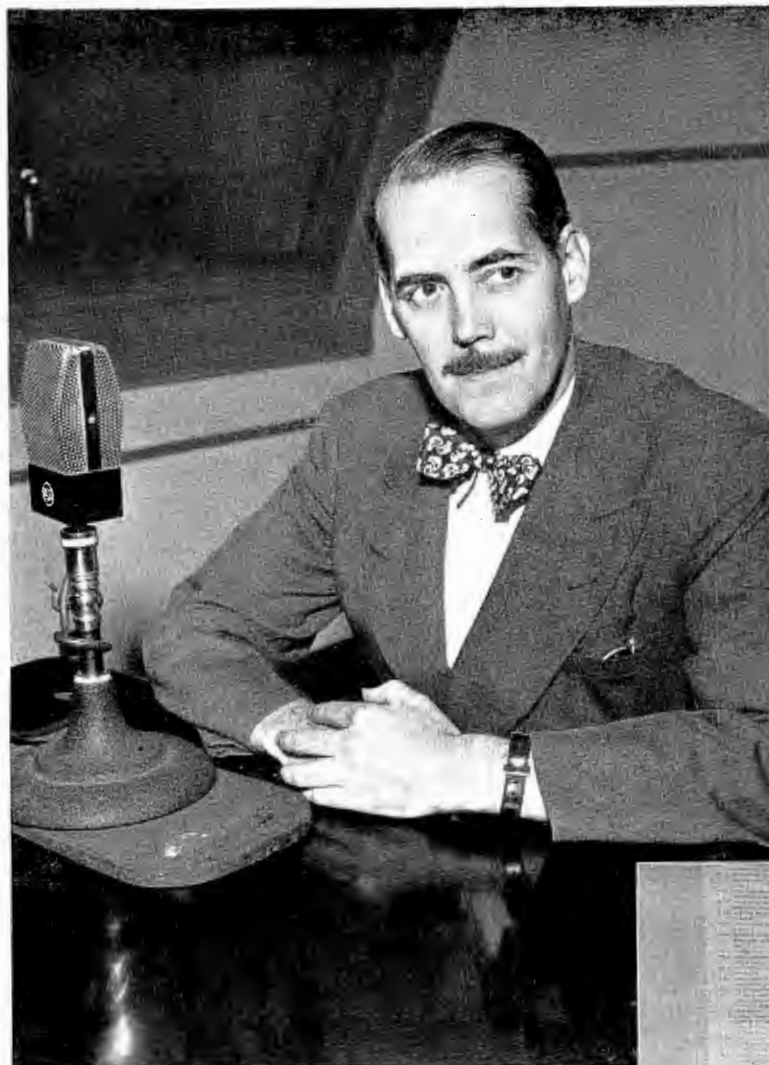
As responsibilities have increased, Prairie Farmer-WLS has grown larger every year. Fred W. Orleman (upper left) is Business Manager and Treasurer of the company. Below is Thomas E. Murphy, Vice-President and legal counsellor. G. A. Holt, not pictured, is Executive Vice-President. You don't hear them on the air, but they're always close by.



Advertising

Heading the advertising department of Prairie Farmer is J. E. Edwards (seated, center). Also seated is Vern Anderson, associate advertising manager, and beside him is Secretary Vera Barrie. At the left is Pearl Ruck de Schel. Standing are W. G. Brookman and Marie Thiel. Numerous others, not pictured, are responsible for maintaining the high quality of Prairie Farmer advertising.





News Editor Julian Bentley

No year in history had so many world-shaking events as 1945, and never was the news of such events given to the public so quickly and accurately. The WLS news department, headed by Julian Bentley, demands not only that its staff handle the news promptly, but that they understand its significance. Three world-wide news services pour dispatches into the news room through clattering teletypes, and the appearance of a newsmen in any studio calls for instant attention. As to Julian, he'd like to talk to you about the farm where he was born, which he and Ruth (Mrs. Bentley) now own and operate.

Newscaster Ervin Lewis

A quiet student of world affairs, Ervin Lewis takes a philosophical view of the news. The time he spent on the battlefield of western Europe as a correspondent made a deep impression on his thinking. He and Julian Bentley both were students at Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois. Ervin is a native of Oklahoma.



Ervin Lewis and M. Tangy Prigent

The war emergency was still intense when Ervin interviewed the French Director of Agriculture, M. Tangy Prigent. This was one of many recorded interviews sent back for WLS programs.



Newscaster Gil Hix

Yes, it's "Gil," not "Bill" as some folks have thought. Gil handles a regular schedule of news broadcasts, but has been particularly active in another work of the news department in recent months. A daily 15-minute commentary period of adult education prepared by the members of the department has greatly enriched listeners' understanding of current problems. Gil Hix, former teacher of history and economics, and author of a textbook, has prepared many of these commentaries. He has also been heard on Prairie Farmer-WLS School Time every Monday in "We Look at the World." Before his teaching career he had traveled extensively in Europe, mostly by bicycle. Mrs. Hix also writes radio copy.



Newscaster Charles Sebastian

Below is the quiet young man with the mellow soothing voice. As part of his introduction to radio, Sebastian was an operator, and sometimes did the announcing and handled the control knobs at the same time, before he came to WLS. In addition to his news work and some other announcing, he has been heard every Thursday on School Time "Visiting Day."



Gil Hix and Rescued GI's

The two soldiers seated were among those rescued from the Jap prison camp at Cabanatuan, Philippine Islands. Gil Hix brought them to Dinner Bell Time for a firsthand story of their rescue.



Farm News Editor Tiffany

It has been the purpose of WLS since its first broadcast in 1924 to be of greatest possible service to Middle West agriculture. Markets, farm news, technical information are given many different times a day.

Farm programs are under the direction of Arthur C. Page, Associate Editor of *Prairie Farmer* (page 6).

Al Tiffany (left) is farm news editor, and is heard six days a week from 11:30 to 12 o'clock. He has an unusual understanding of farm matters, having spent a number of years in buying and handling of livestock. Al lives on a five-acre place in Kane county, Illinois.

SERVICE TO



In the circle above, Med Maxwell, whose voice has been heard on hundreds of interviews with farmers in many states. Usually heard from 6:30 to 6:45 in the morning.



At left above is F. C. Bisson, who gives the daily broadcast of the closing grain market direct from the Chicago Board of Trade. Formerly with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Mr. Bisson has had many years of experience in grain market reporting.



Bill Morrissey (lower left corner) works from a little studio at the Chicago Livestock Exchange at the Union Stock Yards in Chicago. The information he gives on his livestock market reports comes direct from the transactions in the yards. On warm days when windows are open you can often hear the cattle in the background.

Early Riser Menard

George Menard (right) gets up before daylight throughout the year, to be at the studio for the early morning farm news six days a week at 6:00 a. m. This 15 minutes has become an essential part of the daily routine for many listeners. George is also heard every Tuesday evening at 6:15 with "The RFD Mail Box" program, and on Saturdays with Chuck Acree in "Man on the Farm." He is a singer of extraordinary ability, and has been on many afternoon programs with the orchestra. Originator of the "Radio in the Barn" Club. He has a hobby of working with leather.



AGRICULTURE

Milton (Milt) Carleton, in circle, is one of America's distinguished horticulturists, and vice-president of Vaughan Seed Company. He is heard on a gardening program every Saturday morning.



Dave Swanson (left) is manager of the Producers Livestock Marketing Association. He is heard every Saturday giving the "Trends and Possibilities of the Livestock Market." On this subject he is one of the best informed men in the country.



Lloyd (Doc) Burlingham is heard on a number of programs daily, with keen and understanding commentary on farm affairs. His Wednesday evening livestock discussions at 6:15 are classics.



"Good Evening, Friends."

Jack Brinkley (in circle, left) signs the station on at six o'clock every evening. Jack has had a very thorough experience in all phases of radio, formerly appeared in dramatic productions, and as you may have heard sometimes, is an accomplished whistler. Is especially expert in the technique of making electrical transcriptions.



Jack Holden (left) is shown above visiting with two friends at the Barn Dance. You'd never guess it, but they are Lum and Abner in person. Their real names are Norris Goff, at the left, and Chet Lauck, at the right, proprietors of the "Jot-'Em-Down Store" at Pine Ridge.

Hal O'Halloran (right) was pretty proud the day his son Hal Junior came back from his tour of duty with the Army. We put Junior to work as soon as he got out of uniform, and starting like his much-loved father, he begins at 5:00 every morning, doing a lot of necessary chores. If Junior takes lessons from his Dad, he ought to make a great radio man, for Hal has done almost everything, and has chuckled his way into the hearts of WLS folks.



Our Pastor, Doctor John Holland

The Little Brown Church of the Air has been going since 1925, and for more than half of that time Dr. Holland has been its pastor. Besides the regular service each Sunday morning, he is heard daily on Morning Devotions at 7:00, and at the close of Dinner Bell Time. Dr. Holland has also been active in the work of the Christmas Neighbors Club, and delivers many addresses in the course of each year. To him come many confidences and many problems of listeners. He has been in the ministry 40 years.

At WLS it is considered entirely appropriate that religion is not something separate from daily affairs, but is a part of them. On every broadcast of The Little Brown Church service, the suggestion is made that the listener should also attend his own church and take part in its work.



William O'Connor is heard as the singer of favorite hymns each morning with Dr. Holland on Morning Devotions. He loves to sing, and has been doing it for many years on WLS. "Bill" has a happy disposition, as you can see by his smile and that merry twinkle in his eyes.



Below, The Little Brown Church Quartet is heard every Sunday. Left to right they are David Johnson, Jessie Steck, Adele Brandt and George Gilman. Adele Brandt is also heard at the close of Dinner Bell Time each day, and is the first person you meet at the studios. She is the one who can tell a pair of newlyweds at first glance.





Mail

Before most of the office workers arrive, these girls of the mail room are organized to start sorting mail the moment it comes in. They not only sort out letters and cards and send them promptly to the right desks and departments, but they keep a record showing the number from each county and state every day. Seated, left, is Mildred Burton, in charge; at the right, Emma Heitmann; standing, left, Anna Miller; with telephone, Ingeborg Bunge.



Music

Every piece of music played or sung on WLS must first have been checked through the music library. These two girls, Hazel Rosenthal, holding the recording, and MaryAnn Cesal, have at their finger tips full information about thousands of musical numbers. Ozzie Westley, in charge, is here working on a special arrangement for a dramatic program.

Weather Men

Recognizing the vital importance of the weather in all farm and market problems, WLS has always given much attention to weather information.

Every morning at 5:55, a broadcast direct from the Weather Bureau forecast center at the Airport in Chicago, gives a roundup of the weather picture for the whole country. These are the men you hear on the air. At the top, four of them group around the weather map. Below they stand behind an instrument that measures height and thickness of clouds. Some of these men are on the job night or day. Left to right in the lower picture they are: Howard F. Kenny, Gordon Dunn, Ivan W. Brunk, H. L. Jacobson and P. F. Sutton.

Weather forecast, temperature and humidity are given many times each day on WLS, a service useful to farmers in planning their work. If a sudden freezeup or sleet storm is coming that will make travel dangerous, it is bulletined in any program. During summer months, special weather warnings for Great Lakes navigation are telephoned from the forecast center and ships are instructed to listen at certain times for such warnings.



THE WEATHER: WE DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!



Peace Conference

Engineer Charles Nehlsen, John Strohm and Harold Safford board the train for San Francisco, with recording equipment to interview delegates from many nations for WLS broadcasts. Particular attention was given to food and agricultural problems.



Above, Harold Safford interviews a Chinese delegate on the train. At the left, two genuine sheiks from Irak. Seated around the table, with recorder in background, John Strohm, Frederick Kuh of the Chicago Sun, Howard Vincent O'Brien of the Chicago Daily News, and back to camera, Irving Pflaum of the Chicago Times. Lower left, Arnold Vas Dias of the Netherlands. Lower right, Mr. and Mrs. George Denney of Town Meeting of the Air, with Safford and Strohm. This is the way WLS covered one of the greatest events in history.

All through the war, by thorough handling of the news, and by interviews with many persons, WLS undertook to keep its listeners informed about world affairs that affect our future. This we have considered a part of our job. It was natural, therefore, that when this history-making conference was called, WLS should be there to send back firsthand information.



Folk Music

Doc Hopkins not only sings practically all of the old traditional folk songs of the American hill country, but he can tell you the stories about which many of them were written. He will explain that some of the melodies are very old, having been carried through memory since they were brought over from Europe or the British Isles. The reason so many of the folk songs are sad is because there was much tragedy in the lives of the pioneers. Instead of writing books about their experiences, they sang the stories to these old half remembered melodies. Doc came from Kentucky, where he "grew up on corn bread."



Jones Girls

Judie and Julie, in this picture, are wearing those Scotch plaid dresses that have been mentioned so often. They do their own sewing, just like their mother taught them back in West Virginia. They declare they are also excellent cooks, but we never tasted their cooking. Singing is what they do best.



Studio Engineers

Chief Engineer Tom Rowe, with responsibility for a thousand delicate mechanical details, never worries, never gets excited. He is a veteran in radio and has pioneered many valuable methods for control room operation.

Below, the studio operators come out of the control room, make believe they are performers. Seated at the piano, Burr Whyland. Standing, left to right, Roy Huberty, Robert Miller, Dale Shimp, Chuck Ostler, Charles (Nelly) Nehlsen, Maurice Donnelly, William Keller. These men know their stuff, and some of them are at the controls for every broadcast.



Transmitter

Homer Courchene is in charge of the big 50,000-watt transmitter, located some 25 miles out in the country. Early listeners will remember "Homer, pull the big switch and let's go home." Night and day these men stand watch over the powerful machinery which is so important to the entire Middle West.

In the group gathered around the master control desk, seated is W. T. (Andy) Anderson; standing, left to right, are A. J. Forgach, J. F. Mehren, A. R. Johnson and C. E. Wise.

Only since the end of the war has it been permissible to take pictures in and around the transmitter, which was kept under constant guard because of its extreme military importance.





Romaine

Whenever Dinner Bell Time is on the air you may be sure that Romaine Benner is sitting close by with notebook and pencil, keeping a daily diary of the program. When there are newlywed couples visiting, Romaine supervises the brides on the job of ringing the opening bells. There were 194 pairs of newlyweds on the program in 1945. Aside from this, all Romaine has to do is open some thousands of letters, write answers to a lot of them, copy a lot of long manuscripts, call up the weather bureau and take the forecast over the phone, make dates for speakers, make hotel and train reservations, and get out notices about future programs. Romaine grew up in Elkhart County, Indiana.



Harvard

An interesting Dinner Bell remote in 1945 was the Annual Milk Day at Harvard, Illinois. Above are some of the people who attended the program in the city park. At the right is lovely Norma Garrett, farm girl chosen as queen for the year.

Two years earlier, several thousand dairymen had joined in a public pledge to increase milk production during the war, in spite of all handicaps. The reports given at the 1945 event showed they had made good on their pledge.



Youth Leaders

Early in 1945, outstanding Future Farmers of America from the four states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin were guests of Prairie Farmer-WLS. They attended a dinner and met many of the members of the organization. This group of young men represent the highest ideals in present-day agriculture.

With them were state leaders, shown at the right. These men are, left to right, J. B. Adams, Illinois State Leader; Luke Kelly, Michigan State Leader; Mr. Tenney, U. S. Department of Agriculture; K. W. Kiltz, Indiana State Leader; C. H. Bousack, Wisconsin State Leader.



FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

These 33 boys, leaders in F. F. A. work in their states, came to Chicago as guests of Prairie Farmer-WLS with all expenses paid. They visited many interesting places and met students from several other countries at a dinner given in their honor. For many

it was their first trip to Chicago. For clear thinking and ability to stand up and express themselves, we have never seen a finer group of young men. There is no doubt that in this group are many who will be known as outstanding leaders in the future.





Mac and Bob

This is about the finest picture we have ever had of Mac and Bob. Left to right as they stand, they are Lester MacFarland (Mac) and Robert Gardner (Bob). The boys have been singing together so long that they almost seem to think together. Their memory of songs is prodigious, and it is seldom that they need to resort to reading the words from their special Braille copies. You know, of course, the boys are both blind.

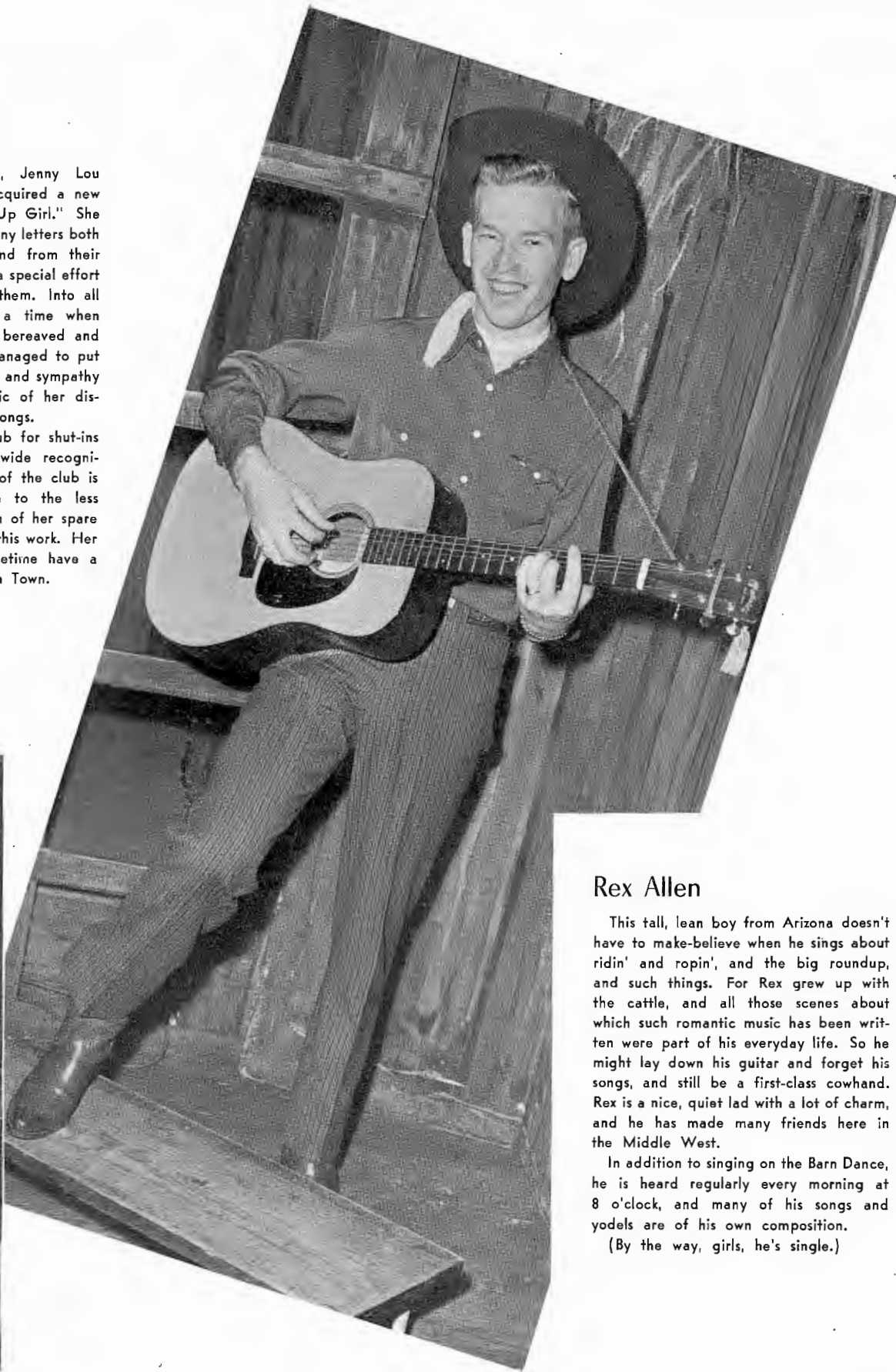
The boys have appeared at many local programs, and they always receive a grand welcome. People tell us that there is something in the way they sing that shows understanding of human problems. Perhaps it is true, that being without sight, they see things that are hidden from others.



Jenny Lou

During the war, Jenny Lou Carson suddenly acquired a new title, "Radio Chin-Up Girl." She received a great many letters both from servicemen and from their parents, and made a special effort to reply to all of them. Into all such contacts, at a time when many people were bereaved and discouraged, she managed to put the spirit of warmth and sympathy that is characteristic of her disposition and her songs.

Her Chin-Up Club for shut-ins has gained nation-wide recognition. The purpose of the club is to spread sunshine to the less fortunate, and much of her spare time is devoted to this work. Her ambition is to sometime have a place called Shut-In Town.



Rex Allen

This tall, lean boy from Arizona doesn't have to make-believe when he sings about ridin' and ropin', and the big roundup, and such things. For Rex grew up with the cattle, and all those scenes about which such romantic music has been written were part of his everyday life. So he might lay down his guitar and forget his songs, and still be a first-class cowhand. Rex is a nice, quiet lad with a lot of charm, and he has made many friends here in the Middle West.

In addition to singing on the Barn Dance, he is heard regularly every morning at 8 o'clock, and many of his songs and yodels are of his own composition.

(By the way, girls, he's single.)





Publicity

This picture of Wilma Gwilliam (standing) and her assistant, Mary Fort, is already out of date because Mary doesn't work here any more. There was a handsome young soldier who came galloping home, and a week or two later Mary became Mrs. Charles Shedd. Wilma, as a little girl on an Indiana farm, resolved that she would some day work on WLS, and now she is a publicity director.

Promotion

The promotion department tells people about the things we do, and why we do them. Seated are Bob Donovan and Georgean McCullough. Standing, left to right, Bob Keith, Don Finlayson, Director, and Warren Middleton. Keith has since returned to the Army.



Continuity

Jack Stilwill came back from the rolling sea, laid aside his uniform as lieutenant in the U. S. Navy, and now is continuity chief at WLS. Jack is no stranger here—just a home boy come back, for he has done almost every variety of job on the station. Supervision of continuity is a serious and exacting task. It involves a great many problems of station policy and of good taste. Helping Jack is the group below, except that Harry Templeton has taken up another branch of station activity. Left to right in the group, Kathryn Brady, Josephine Wetzler with telephone, May V. Lantz, Harry Templeton and Al Rice.



Production

The production man in radio is a sort of silent genius moving in and out, pulling hidden strings, but making never a sound. That is, no sound on the air. But in rehearsals the production man may be the embodiment of sound and fury, waving a tired stopwatch, prompting, shushing, coaching. So by the magic of production, the finished program runs sweet and smooth. We captured three production men here. Seated is Herb Howard, who makes assignments and ends arguments with a quiet "yes" or "no." At the left is Ray Ferris, a veteran with WLS, and at the right, Frank Blotter, new on the staff this year.



Curly Miller

"Good Morning, Friends and Neighbors."

This greeting was the trade-mark of Curly Miller, who was your master of ceremonies on Smile-A-While for some time late in 1945. While Curly is an accomplished musician and a talented announcer, his heart interest lies in training of horses. He has had much experience in this work, and says it is simple to get almost any horse to do tricks, if you and the horse understand each other. Curly is not with WLS now. He's gone to train horses.



Russ Salter

Russ is known around the studios for the earnest and thorough way he tackles every job set before him. Russ is highly trained in the science of electronics, and understands the heart-throbs of a vacuum tube. Down inside he still sometimes has yearnings to be a doctor, and he'd have made a good one. He is heard on numerous announcing schedules, and every Tuesday at 1:15 p. m. he has been the teacher-narrator on School Time "Adventures in Health." Russ is the sort of fellow who always thinks of others first, himself last. You can count on him.



The Blackhawk Valley Boys and Penny West, the group below, were new to WLS in 1945, coming here from a station in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. In November, Penny became the bride of Dean Maxedon, whose place she took in the act when he entered the Army. They play and sing a great variety of music, and, fortunately, have continued to remember that WLS listeners like their music sweet, regardless of current styles in sour chords.

From left to right in the picture they are Pete Fall, Penny West, Andy Anderson, George Arthur.





Announcers

Jerry Campbell (in the circle) signs his name Gerald, but we wouldn't advise you to call him that. Although he is the youngest announcer on the staff, he was in radio three years before coming to WLS as a sound effects man. He left here for the Army, and

when he laid aside the uniform, came back to take an announcing schedule. He can be heard almost any hour of the day. We were about to say that he is now a "finished" announcer, but really he's only beginning, not finished. Jerry takes his job seriously, has a very pleasant personality, and is usually seen with a smile on his face. He is originally from Iowa. His hobby is listening to good music.

Dan Cubberly (right), with the deep sonorous voice, has sailed the seven seas with the merchant marine. For a lad his age he's seen a lot of the world. Dan is heard on various announcing schedules, and hurries home each day to teach his two young children tumbling and acrobatics, which was a former profession of his.



Lew LaMar (right) has recently been best known in connection with the weekly Prairie Farmer-WLS program, "This Is Our County," for which he has been Master of Ceremonies. Many counties already have been visited, with interviews and a county quiz, and a different county will be featured every week. Lew has had years of experience in newspaper and radio work.



The Dawnbusters

As their name suggests, they really do "bust the dawn," because they have to get up early in order to be here for an early morning show. From left to right they are: James Palecek, Dave Bohme, Max Stelter and "Smokey" (Dale) Lohman. The first three named are also known as the Diamondeers on the D-X Melody Revue, heard regularly every Saturday night from the WLS studios.



Accompanist

John Brown, who has played accompaniments for the greatest and the humblest of singers, declares that his chief business is "standing by." What that actually means is that many times when some other program is on the air, John is ready to start playing whenever "production" calls for him. This might be if an expected speaker didn't arrive, or in case of a remote, some mechanical difficulty. Being a "stand by" means that he must be good enough to fit in any program, and that certainly applies to John.

Maple City 4

We believe the Maple City 4 is the oldest male quartet in radio. They grew up from a drug store quartet in LaPorte, Indiana, and have been singing on WLS almost from its beginning. One of them said, "When the man came to unlock the studio door for the first time, there we were, sitting on the doorstep." An important factor in the long success of this group is their refusal to follow some of the trends away from melody and sweet harmony. Left to right, back row, Fritz Meissner and Al Rice; front row, Pat Petterson and Pete Taflinger.



Arkie

The Arkansas Woodchopper is the hardy perennial of the microphone. Other years we've given you pictures that show him to be really handsome, but this shows him right in the middle of one of his laughing songs. Probably "The Covered Wagon Rolled Right Along."

Many people on the staff ask Arkie's advice on all sorts of questions, for he's a fellow with an uncommon amount of common sense and judgment. Native of Knobnoster, Missouri, down in the Ozarks.

No singer before the microphone has ever been so much manhandled, interfered with, interrupted, as Arkie. He has been wrapped in bandages, his sheet music set afire, his guitar put out of tune, his shoes unlaced, but rugged old mountaineer that he is, he sings right along through it all.



Connie and Bonnie

Herewith we hand you the answer to a great mystery. Which is Connie and which is Bonnie? Well, the one with the guitar is Bonnie and the other is Connie. They are the Linder girls, who came to WLS from a farm in Nebraska. Much of the time they dress alike, so are often taken for twins, but are not. However, a family of listeners recently was blessed with a pair of twin baby girls, whom they promptly named Connie and Bonnie.



Grace Wilson

It was a night in April, 1924, when Grace Wilson first sang on WLS—the opening program. Few people understand the hearts of our listeners so well as Grace. The calendar says she's a bit older than she was 22 years ago, but you'd never know it from her blithesome spirit. Mostly she has been singing "Songs to Remember." Occasionally, answering hundreds of requests, she still sings that gay shout, "Bringin' Home the Bacon!"

Square Dancers

Old-fashioned square dancing has always been a central theme in programs of the National Barn Dance, since it originated on WLS 22 years ago. However, the square dances were almost strictly rural up to that time. Since then, there has been great demand for instruction in square dancing, and in the sing-song calls of the various figures. One man who has taught many city groups square dancing is Guy Colby, standing, in the center of this group. He says it's easy to teach people the routines of the square dance, and they have lots of fun doing it.



Acree

It seems as if people who come from Oklahoma are supposed to be either cowboys or comedians. Well, so far as we know, Chuck Acree is no cowboy, although he could certainly talk as long as the cows would listen. He's hardly a comedian, either, although he gets into some very funny situations that make folks laugh a lot. Heard every Saturday in "Man on the Farm," Chuck is usually called "the talkative Oklahoman." His home is on a farm in Kane county, Illinois.



Reunion

"It's been a long time," says Grace Cassidy, as she talks with E. H. Powell about the beginnings of WLS. Mr. Powell was here when the station started. Grace was here then, and present Program Director Harold Safford (left) came just a short time later.

Funnies

Every Sunday morning Aunt Rita and Uncle Charlie read the funnies for the children who have to stay indoors. They have lots of fun doing it, too. Both of them have been heard at other times in dramatic parts. They are Rita Ascot and Charles Eggleston.



Orchestra

The WLS Orchestra is one of the most highly talented and one of the best-loved groups of musicians on the air. Many of them have been on the job as long as 10 or 15 years, some of them longer than that. Every member of the group is highly skilled, and many of them are teachers. They have played everything from the most complicated arrangements to hoedowns, and for some months have been giving a special program every afternoon with Grace Wilson and George Menard. You should hear them sometime when they are not on the air, putting on an impromptu "jam" session.

Herman Felber, director, practically grew up with either a baton or a violin bow in his hand. They are pictured here in a corner of Studio A, much the same as they are set up each day for Dinner Bell Time.

The leadership of this orchestra, and their selection of music, has unquestionably had a great deal to do with the musical taste of the Middle West. Our folks like hearty music, with plenty of drive and rhythm, and with sweet harmony. Listeners have written many compliments on the fine marches played on Dinner Bell Time.



Petersons

The smiling couple in the circle are Mr. and Mrs. Howard Peterson, but you know Mrs. Peterson better as Avis Leone. Howard plays the big organ, and between times writes a new piece of music every little while. Plenty of harmony in this household.



Dixie Dandies

One might say "music takes a holiday" when this group, all highly skilled musicians, get together on the stage at the National Barn Dance to play well-known tunes in their own ridiculous way. They accomplish some very funny results.

Comics

When the Hoosier Hot Shots started at WLS they were fresh off the home farms in Indiana, and they've been getting fresher year after year. Their unique methods of getting music out of unheard of combinations of things is now known all over the country. The one with the silly cap is Hezzie.





Harmoneurs

With harmonicas tiny as watch charms, and big as stove-wood, the Harmoneurs obtain fine musical effects under the direction of Reggie Cross. They are heard Saturdays with "Man on the Farm" and at other times. During the war they did some weird repairing of old broken-down harmonicas when new ones could not be bought. Incidentally, several hundred harmonicas sent in by listeners were forwarded to boys in service overseas.



Comedy

Pioneer of all the comedians in radio, Uncle Tom Corwine demonstrates that he can still do a funny sequence of barnyard sound effects, interspersed with bits of homely philosophy. Everybody loves Uncle Tom.

Jimmy James (in circle) is back, after his tour of duty with the Army. They say he was never too tired or dragged-out to see the funny side of things. If somebody came looking for him, the way to find him was just to listen to where the roars of laughter were coming from, and there was Jimmy, right in the middle of the crowd of GI's.

Just for Fun

Maybe you have heard the gales of laughter on the National Barn Dance broadcast when "Little Tilford" comes walking in. At the right you see a picture of "Little Tilford" in person, otherwise Arthur Swanson. "Uncle Orrie" (Joe Rockhold) had to climb up on a stepladder to talk to him. Arthur, whose nickname is "Holly," plays the string bass, which is a large instrument for most persons, but not so for "Holly." In fact, he has to bend down while playing, as he is only 6' 10".

The aggregation below is the group which answers to the name of "Uncle Orrie's Village Limits." They are skilled musicians, but you could never prove it by listening as they break out with all sorts of comic antics on the stage. The reason they get so many laughs from the audience is because they have so much fun themselves. Of course, their costumes might have something to do with it, too. Standing, left to right, Al Rice, Verne Fiedler, "Holly" Swanson, "Otto" Morse, Larry Gordon and Joe Rockhold. Seated, Pat Peterson.





Patsy and Paul

Patsy Montana will be a very happy person when her G.I. gets home from Japan, just like hundreds of thousands of others. Although we'll probably always call her Patsy Montana, this couple is really Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rose. Patsy and Paul first met here. There are two other Roses, Beverly, who did some of her first toddling around the studio, and Judy, a little younger. If you have last year's Album you will find the two girls.



Lu and Scotty

Those listeners who have been with us through the years know the story of Lulu Belle and Scotty. In fact, when this quiet young man, trained for teaching, fell in love with handsome laughing Lu, it seemed as if the whole Middle West had a share in their romance. There are Linda Lou, now about 9 years old, and little Steven, four years younger. Their pictures were shown last year.



Martha and Helen

Martha Crane and Helen Joyce (below) have built their daily Feature Foods program into Middle West kitchens until it's as much a fixture as the cook stove or the kitchen sink. Their outstanding success is based on a simple, direct and completely practical approach to daily household problems. There's nothing of the "artiste" about either one, but they know what they're talking about. This attitude has won approval of housewives.

Anniversary

On the Tenth Anniversary of the Feature Foods program, guests had an opportunity to meet the entire staff. Seated are Nell Joachim, Martha and Helen. Standing are Alice Watkins, Mabel Taylor and Johanna Burk. These women work with merchandising plans of the foods they advertise.





Family

This is part of what we mean when we talk about the Prairie Farmer-WLS Family. These girls have varying responsibilities, but every one is important. From left to right, front row, Ida Lumkes, Shirley Coles, Mildred Zalac, Betty McCann, Violet Effertz, Ruth Luce, Barbara Jones. Back row, Grace Lindeman, Jennie Teune, Marjorie Adams, Alyce Dryfhout, Josephine Fata, Mary Wetzler.

Below, a group of the "family" gathered in Studio A singing Christmas carols, which we do every year. The clock above the control room window shows 25 1/2 minutes after 12 o'clock, time for Dr. Holland.

Group in Studio A, Singing Christmas Carols



Artists Bureau

Taking care of the constant demand for talent to appear in local entertainments, at county fairs and exhibitions, is the WLS Artists Bureau. They say their only trouble is that folks on the entertainment staff don't have enough time to go out to all the places where people want them.

No office in this country is better informed as to the likes and dislikes of people in the Middle West, as to music, comedy and entertainment in general. The Artists Bureau has been studying this for many years.

In the picture, standing, are George Ferguson and Paul Aubrey. Seated, left to right, Eleanor Sandilands, Norma Newkirk, E. W. Kurtze.



Through many years of working with the people of the Middle West, in *Prairie Farmer* and on WLS, policies of service have always been the cornerstone of every plan. Our readers and

listeners are our neighbors and friends, and we are proud to work for them. Letters from listeners are our constant guide. Every letter and suggestion is read and studied carefully.



Poultry Supply

Best known to WLS listeners through *Poultry Service Time*, the *Poultry Supply Dealer* is a publication serving hatcheries, dealers and manufacturers of poultry feeds and supplies. Nurtured at the start by *Prairie Farmer*, it has grown to a position of leadership in that field.

Shown here is the office staff, part of the group responsible for publishing it. Seated are Roy Lynnes, General Manager, and Art Hirsch, Editor. Standing, left to right, Alice Boeing, Alma Jirka, and Dale Kelley, Assistant Editor.

Visiting Day

Every Thursday is Visiting Day on Prairie Farmer-WLS School Time. At the right, Charles Sebastian is interviewing pupils at the Pilot Knob School, McDonough County, Illinois.

Below at the right, two pupils at that school demonstrate a fire extinguisher for the State Fire Marshal and a group of fire chiefs. The scene was described over WLS for the benefit of other rural schools.

Directly below, a class in the school at Morocco, Newton County, Indiana, listen to visitors from Prairie Farmer-WLS School Time. Several hundred pupils have heard their letters read on the Visiting Day program.



Radio Lesson

At the left, a typical group listens to School Time on the radio, taking notes for the class discussion to follow. Subjects treated in the year include geography, health, music appreciation, nature study, American history and an interpretation of the news. School Time programs are intended to supplement and enrich the work of the teacher, and to add inspiration and stimulus. School authorities are saying that from now on, no school is fully equipped unless it has a radio to take advantage of such lessons.

Teachers say that children not only enjoy the radio lessons and learn from them, but they do their best work in other subjects in the period following School Time.

School Time

The 1945-46 school term is the 10th for Prairie Farmer-WLS School Time. This pioneer educational program is listened to in thousands of classrooms in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan.

Added to the staff this year, Virginia Pickens (right), former rural teacher, farm raised, who has assisted in planning courses and handling details. The program is heard every school day at 1:15, and carries forward the interest Prairie Farmer has had in schools for more than a century.

This year's programs have been designed for pupils from 5th grade through high school, although many younger pupils listen and find the classes interesting. Subject matter is chosen after consultation with many school authorities.

Early in the school year, Virginia interviewed Governor Green of Illinois (below) and learned how the influence of a teacher had affected his whole career. State and county educational authorities have been generous in their praise of School Time as a practical aid to every school.





"Our County"

A distinguished addition to WLS programs is the weekly feature, "This Is Our County." It was first heard on Sunday mornings, and is now heard every Friday on the Dinner Bell program at 12:00 noon. This is the group that put on the program from Fountain County, Indiana, on December 2, 1945. At the microphone, holding the script is Narrator Lew LaMar of WLS. At the extreme right is Josephine Wetzler, who works on the research and writes the script for the program.



Above, Jenny Lou Carson, busy just before Christmas mailing out packages to her shut-in friends and to service men whom she had "adopted."



At the left, a small part of the food supplies turned in as the admission price for the WLS Christmas Giving Party, placed in the hands of the Salvation Army for distribution to the needy in Chicago.

Grimm

We might say it was a "grimm" evening at the Eighth Street Theater when Charlie Grimm manager of the Chicago Cubs baseball team, brought his family to the WLS National Barn Dance. It was during the 1945 World's Series. In the upper picture, Red Foley was being introduced to Mrs. Grimm.

Can't say just what Charlie was applauding when the lower picture was snapped, but he and his wife and son and daughter were having a fine time all evening. They got a big hand from the audience when they were asked to stand up.



Prairie Ramblers

For many a year now, the Prairie Ramblers have been making sweet harmony, mixed in with a bit of uproarious humor now and then. They are heard on several programs, and have met many thousands of listeners face to face. "Ridin' Down the Canyon" is their theme song, one they have used for a long time. Left to right they are Jack Taylor, Chick Hurt, Bernie Smith and Alan Crockett. Smith is the newest member.





Quiz-Down

One of the newer programs that has made a sensation is the WLS Quiz-Down, with Quiz Kid Harve Fishman as quizmaster. Pupils from many different schools are brought in to compete in a quiz every Saturday. Always there is the possibility of finding children with unusual ability for appearance on other programs.

In the middle of the group, Harve Fishman, still one of the Quiz Kids, is dressed in mortarboard and robe as quizmaster.

If anyone is in doubt about the progress of the younger generation, this program should be convincing. Many times the children answer questions that would be difficult for their parents.

Audience Watching Quiz-Down Program on Saturday Morning





Magic Harp

Boys and girls in classrooms throughout Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan, seeing the title "The Magic Harp," will think at once of the Wednesday program of Prairie Farmer-WLS School Time of that name. Well, boys and girls, this is the very same harp, and lovely Margaret Sweeney, the same harpist, you hear at the introduction of that program every week.

This seemed just the right picture for the closing page of the 1946 WLS Family Album.

We hope you have enjoyed meeting so many of our folks face to face. In the past year we have spent many busy hours together, and though there has been time for laughter and fun, it has been a time for hard work and serious thought. Most of all we have treasured our companionship with you.

So we leave you, with the soft music of the Magic Harp in the background. We'll see you tomorrow morning at five o'clock.

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