

BOWES' AMATEURS

Are Losers Fixed in Advance? Ernie Probes Mysteries of Gong

BY ERNIE PYLE

NEW YORK, Jan. 27.—In several months of traveling over the United States, I have found the two burning questions in the American mind to be:

1. What about the Supreme Court?
2. Are the people who get the gong on Maj. Bowes' amateur hour "fixed" ahead of time?

The Supreme Court is over my head. But I thought I might be able to crack the secret of the amateur hour, and win myself the Pulitzer Prize.

So I have delved deeply. I have spent hours and hours with various lieutenants and helpers of the Bowes' hour. I have sat in a front row and watched the actual broadcast. I have chatted afterward with people on the program who got the gong, and people who didn't. I have talked with Maj. Bowes himself. I have sniffed and cupped my ear and peeked through key-holes.

And the upshot is that I don't know whether they're fixed or not. I lean to the theory they aren't. But I can't prove a thing.

BOWES and his amateur hour are an amazing phenomenon. They are unquestionably the most popular thing on the radio.

Anybody who takes the air on another station at the same hour is a martyr. Even the opposition network admits that Bowes is a giant roller, and what can you do about it? Eddie Cantor recently asked to be transferred to another hour, so somebody would listen to him.

Bowes puts on his amateur show every Sunday night, sponsored by a coffee company. It has been published that he gets \$5000 a week from the program, but he says it is less.

It is not out of the actual radio hour, however, that Bowes makes his money. The "hour" furnishes him talent for a separate business, and that business is all his own; coffee has nothing to do with it.

That business is the troupe of "amateurs," chosen from the radio hour, who tour the country in road shows. Bowes has 10 of these companies on the road, and another one forming. They employ about 250 people who have been radio "amateurs."

It has been said each of these road companies is clearing \$2000 a week for Bowes. The magazine Variety says he cleaned up a million last year. He's in the big money; there's no question about that.

But back to the gong. Some people think Bowes picks one or two obviously bad acts each week, and then makes an arrangement with them to take the gong. I don't believe that. I do believe, however, that he probably sizes up his bunch of performers for the night, and decides which one has the personality to take a gonging without too much humiliation.

The man who gets the gong is paid a little more than the rest. Bowes won't admit that any of them are paid anything—for if they're paid, are they amateurs? He's touchy about that.

But they are paid, just as a sort of surprise, after the broadcast. No specified sum; it's gauged more by their own personal need than by their ability as entertainers. The average is about \$10. The best ones may get no fee at all, for they get contracts with the road shows.

It has been said the gong is never given to women. The old chivalry stuff, you know. That isn't true, either.

One night last summer Miss Roslyn Penkerson, whose father is dead and whose mother is a blacksmith, got the old cymbal. If I remember correctly, she cried.

Bowes got 1500 letters of protest.

Music

BY JAMES THRASHER

MARGARET SPEAKS, soprano, is to appear as guest artist with Richard Crooks, Metropolitan Opera tenor, on his NBC-WEAF broadcast at 7:30 tonight. They are to be assisted by an orchestra directed by William Daly, whose feature number is to be the Spanish dance of Victor Herbert.

Both grand and light opera are to be represented in Mr. Crooks' singing of "Una Furtiva Lagrima," from Donizetti's "Elixir d'Amore," and "Liebe, Du Himmel auf Erden," by Franz Lehár. He is to be joined by Miss Speaks in "Je Suis Heureuse," from Thomas "Mignon."

The Habanera from Bizet's "Carmen" is to be featured by Grace Moore on her program with Josef Pasternack and his orchestra at 8:30 tonight, over NBC-WEAF.

EUGENE ORMANDY, conductor of the Minneapolis Symphony orchestra, had some interesting things to say about radio and its sister, television, during his brief stay here last week. Radio, he believes, hurt concert attendance at first, but since has created in rural listeners a desire to hear great orchestral music first hand. He believes, too, many persons, particularly men, have learned to enjoy symphonic broadcasts through "exposure" to them, although formerly they had considered a symphony concert in the same class with a dose of bad-tasting medicine.

We may expect with television a revolutionary change in technique, not only of broadcasts, but of legitimate drama and movies as well. Mr. Ormandy predicts.

Incidentally, this admirer of modern music hates jazz, with its "very melancholic, saying-nothing melody," although he admits he can enjoy Cab Calloway—for five minutes! ... Asked his opinion of Toscanini, he said, "No I don't admire him, I simply think he is the greatest conductor of all time."

Radio Waves

Edwin Hill to Start New Series Over NBC Tonight.

THE voice of Edwin C. Hill is to be heard over the air waves at 6:30 tonight in a new series of "The Human Side of the News" talks. The commentator is also to be heard at that hour over NBC each Wednesday and Friday.

Tonight's programs present two stars, one of the Metropolitan Opera, and one of stage and screen fame. Richard Crooks, tenor, is to broadcast at 7:30 over NBC, and Lionel Barrymore is to be heard at 8 over CBS.

Fraser Hunt, globe-trotting reporter and author, whose "The Bachelor Prince," recent intimate biography of the English king, is to be published serially in The Times starting Tuesday, is to be interviewed at 9:45 tomorrow night over CBS.

The third week of the Goldberg's new series is to find the radio family engrossed in new plans. Molly's club for mothers is well under way, and Jake is financing his comeback with an unexpected sum of money suddenly returned to him by a man to whom he loaned it in the lucky years. His plans for becoming a clothing manufacturer are to be revealed during this week's programs, the first to be at 4:45 today over CBS.

"The Music Goes 'Round and Around" on Guy Lombardo's broadcast at 7 tonight by CBS. The popular tune is Guy's pick to equal the sheet music sales record of "Yes, We Have No Bananas" and other sellers of two million copies or more. With it, in his "Lombardo Road" program, he is to play six best sellers of all time: "Silver Threads Among the Gold," "Roses of Picardy," "Prisoner's Song," "Beautiful Ohio," "Three O'Clock in the Morning," and "Yes, We Have No Bananas."

KITTY GORDON, prima donna of many Victor Herbert operettas, is to be guest star on Ted Hammerstein's "Music Hall of the Air" at 7 tonight. ... a new character is to be brought into the Fibber McGee and Molly show at 7 tonight, NBC, when Fibber starts to work in a Greek restaurant, and Bill Thompson is cast in the role of proprietor ... the Pickens Sisters, Odette Myrtill and Milton Watson on the Evening in Paris program are to be heard at 7 on NBC-WJZ.

"Grumpy" is the vehicle chosen by Lionel Barrymore for his Radio Theater presentation tonight. The title role in the drama was popularized by Cyril Maude, who played it both on Broadway and in the movies. The story deals with the robbery of a valuable diamond and the detection of the thief through the shrewdness of Andrew Bullivant, familiarly called "Grumpy" by his granddaughter and nephew, Barrymore, of course, is to play "Grumpy," the same kind of role that has made him a screen and movie favorite. The nephew is attacked mysteriously as he sits alone, and the diamond is taken. Through a white camella, the stem of which had been tied with a woman's hair, and with no other clue, the old man tracks down the robber, incidentally crowning the happiness of his nephew and granddaughter who love each other.

Other musical programs tonight are to include Harry Horlick's

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A wonderful
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LOCAL AND NETWORK DIALS

Member stations and kilocycles of the network are:
NBC-WEAF-WLW (700), WIRE (1400), WTAM (1070), WMAQ (670), and WSM (650).
NBC-WJZ-WLW (700), WIRE (1400), WENR (870), WLS (870), WMAQ (670), and WSM (650).
CBS-WABC-WFMB (1230), WOWO (1160), and WBSM (770).

When there is no listing for a station at quarter and half-hours, its preceding listed program is on the air.

TODAY

(Programs subject to station changes.)

- 4—Al Pearce and gang (N) WEAF, WIRE.
5—Bob Nolan's band WLW.
6—Rosa Graham (N) WJZ.
7—Cade's Quartet (C) WFMB.
8—Jack Armstrong WLW.
9—Patti Chapin (C) WJZ.
10—Rose Room Melody, Willard Singers (N) WEAF, WIRE.
11—Singing Lady (N) WJZ, WLW.
12—Rae Eleanor Hall (C) WFMB.
13—James Winkler (N) WEAF, WIRE.
14—Little Orphan Annie (N) WJZ.
15—The Goldbergs (C) WFMB.
16—Flying Tunes (N) WEAF, WIRE.
17—Old Fashioned Girl WLW.
18—Buck Rogers (N) WJZ.
19—Bohemians WFMB.
20—Rosa Rogers (C) WFMB.
21—Evening Concert WLW.
22—Conservation talk WFMB.
23—Bobby Benson (C).
24—News (N) WEAF, WJZ, WIRE.
25—Madame X (N) WJZ.
26—Bohemians WFMB.
27—Jack Dempsey's Or. (C).
28—Lowell Thomas (UN) WJZ, WLW.
29—Rhythm Parade (N) WEAF, WIRE.
30—Entire Madrigals (N) WJZ.
31—Sons of the Pioneers WIRE.
32—Schultz Family WIRE.
33—Amos 'n' Andy (N) WEAF, WLW.
34—Dinner concert (N) WJZ.
35—Len Riley, sportscaster WFMB.
36—Mort and Marge (N) WFMB.
37—Uncle Ezra's station (N) WEAF, WIRE.
38—Paul Pearson's Or. (N) WLW.
39—Ted Husing (C).
40—Lum and Abner (N) WJZ, WLW.
41—Singing Sam (C) WFMB.
42—Education news (N) WEAF.
43—House of a Thousand Eyes WLW.
44—Boake Carter (C).
45—Fibber McGee and Molly (N) WJZ.
46—Ernie Madrigals' Or. WLW.
47—Music Hall (N) WEAF.
48—Frank Black and Or. WFMB.
49—Guy Lombardo's Or. (C).

Gypsies, with Howard Price, tenor, in a program of popular music over NBC-WEAF at 8, and the "Contented Hour," at 9, featuring the quartet, Margaret Gent and Reinhold Schmidt with the orchestra in Sigmund Romberg's "Song of Love," from "Blossom Time."

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE HENRY A. WALLACE is to discuss the current agricultural situation on the National Farm and Home hour at 11:30 tomorrow morning. H. R. Kauchage, White House reporter, and Walter Blaufuss and the Homesteaders orchestra also are to be on the program.

Who's George Now? As George Burns once remarked, "Gracie has gotten more nice people dizzy than the guy who invented the carousel." When Gracie conducted the radio search for her "missing brother" several years ago, the life of her real brother, George Allen in San Francisco, was made miserable.

Now Tenor Milton Watson's daughter calls him "Miltie-Wiltie," Jacques Renard's poundage is an open topic for discussion, and Ted Husing, who once took pride in his label as a sports announcer, is referred to by friends as "the tomato" that Gracie squashes each Wednesday night.

Best Short Waves

TOKIO—3 p. m.—Entertainment from Japan. JWM, Naza, 27.9 m. (10,740 kc.).
BERLIN—5 p. m.—Music. DJC, 49.8 m. (6020 kc.).
PARIS—8:15 p. m.—Concert. FYA, 35.6 m. (11,720 kc.).
LONDON—9:15 p. m.—Burlesque. GSD, 25.3 m. (11,750 kc.).

9—Continued program (N) WEAF, WIRE.

- 10—Varieties WIRE.
11—Painted Dream (N) WLW.
12—Hartley Brothers WFMB.
13—Madison ensemble (C).
14—Jerry Brannon WIRE.
15—Jacob Parush (N) WLW.
16—Studio (N) WEAF.
17—Romy's Experience (C) WFMB.
18—Three Keys (C).
19—John Child (N) WEAF, WIRE.
20—Sandra Neighbor WLW.
21—Shut-in Hour (N) WJZ.
22—Vital Bookends (N) WJZ.
23—Mrs. Wiggs (C).
24—Piano Recital (N) WEAF, WIRE.
25—Broadway Show (N) WLW.
26—Cowboys (N) WEAF, WIRE.
27—Mary Alcott WLW.
28—Simpson boys (N) WJZ.
29—Vital Bookends (C) WFMB.
30—Honeydew and Sassafras (N) WEAF, WIRE.
31—Dream Singer (N) WLW.
32—Sophisticates (N) WJZ.
33—Capitulators (C) WFMB.
34—Merry Madcaps (N) WEAF, WIRE.
35—Livestock Weather WLW.
36—Farm and Home Hour (N) WJZ.
37—Life of Mary Martin (C) WFMB.
38—Firm and Home Hour WLW.
39—Five Star Jones (C) WFMB.
40—Noon—Sammy Kay's Or. WIRE.
41—News, Markets (N) WEAF.
42—Farm Circle WFMB.
43—Sammy Kay's Or. (N) WEAF.
44—Flying Squadron WIRE.
45—Ideal reporter WIRE.
46—Stories of Homes (N) WJZ, WLW.
47—Pat Kennedy (N) WEAF.
48—News WFMB.
49—Milton Charles (C).
50—Music Guild (N) WEAF, WIRE.
51—Carrollan WLW.
52—Rochester Civic Or. (N) WJZ.
53—Midway Meditations WFMB.
54—Solid speaker (C).
55—Walter Hickman WIRE.
56—Contemporary Writers WLW.
57—Vital Bookends (C) WFMB.
58—Voices (N) WJZ.
59—Holly Halls (C) WFMB.
60—Rhythm Octet (N) WIRE.
61—School of the Air (C) WFMB.
62—History of Music WLW.
63—HOME POLKS WIRE.
64—Molly of the Movies (N) WLW.
65—Forever Young (N) WEAF.
66—Neille Howell (N) WJZ.
67—Oleanders (C) WFMB.
68—Kathryn Keiser's kaleidoscope.
69—Ma Perkins (N) WEAF, WLW.
70—Morty House (C) WJZ.
71—Tito Guitars (C) WFMB.
72—Vie and Sade (N) WEAF, WLW.
73—Vital Bookends (C) WFMB.
74—Vie and Sade (N) WEAF, WLW.
75—Vital Bookends (C) WFMB.
76—Vie and Sade (N) WEAF, WLW.
77—Vital Bookends (C) WFMB.
78—Vie and Sade (N) WEAF, WLW.
79—Vital Bookends (C) WFMB.
80—Vie and Sade (N) WEAF, WLW.
81—Vital Bookends (C) WFMB.
82—Vie and Sade (N) WEAF, WLW.
83—Vital Bookends (C) WFMB.
84—Vie and Sade (N) WEAF, WLW.
85—Vital Bookends (C) WFMB.
86—Vie and Sade (N) WEAF, WLW.
87—Vital Bookends (C) WFMB.
88—Vie and Sade (N) WEAF, WLW.
89—Vital Bookends (C) WFMB.
90—Vie and Sade (N) WEAF, WLW.
91—Vital Bookends (C) WFMB.
92—Vie and Sade (N) WEAF, WLW.
93—Vital Bookends (C) WFMB.
94—Vie and Sade (N) WEAF, WLW.
95—Vital Bookends (C) WFMB.
96—Vie and Sade (N) WEAF, WLW.
97—Vital Bookends (C) WFMB.
98—Vie and Sade (N) WEAF, WLW.
99—Vital Bookends (C) WFMB.
100—Vie and Sade (N) WEAF, WLW.

TUESDAY

- 6:30—Jolly Bill and Jane (N) WEAF.
7:00—Morning Devotions WLW.
7:30—Morning Devotions WLW.
8:00—Chuck Wagon WFMB.
8:30—Revels.
9:00—Morning Devotions WIRE.
9:30—News WLW.
10:00—Morty House (C) WJZ.
10:30—Yoichi Hiraoka (N) WEAF.
11:00—Reveille WIRE.
11:30—Chandler Chats WLW.
12:00—Morty House (C) WJZ.
12:30—Morning Devotions (N) WJZ.
1:00—Early Birds WFMB.
1:30—Blue Birds (C).
2:00—Musical Clock WIRE.
2:30—Vivian (N) WEAF.
3:00—Walter Catlett (N) WJZ.
3:30—Cheerio (N) WEAF, WLW.
4:00—Freddie Miller (C).
4:30—Minute Men (N) WJZ.
5:00—Salon Musicale (C).
5:30—Joe Emerson WLW.
6:00—Breakfast Club (N) WEAF.
6:30—Vie and Sade (N) WEAF, WLW.
7:00—Bugle Call revue (C) WFMB.
7:30—Fields and Hall (N) WEAF, WIRE.
8:00—Souvenirs of Songs WLW.
8:30—Way Down East WLW.

Royal Funeral

By United Press

NEW YORK, Jan. 27.—Funeral services for King George V will be broadcast in this country tomorrow from 3:30 a. m. to 5 a. m. (Indianapolis time) and from 7 a. m. to 8 a. m. (Indianapolis time) with a two-minute interval of silence at 7:30 a. m. The Columbia Broadcasting System announced today.

The National Broadcasting Co. had not fixed its time definitely, but expected to start probably at 3 a. m.

HOOSIER HELD AFTER FLEEING MICHIGAN JAIL

Jasper Man in Shirt Sleeves, Blue With Cold; One Aid Is Killed.

By United Press

IONIA, Mich., Jan. 27.—Otto Keefer, 32, one of three prisoners who fled the Ionia County jail in sub-zero temperatures last night, was captured today as he walked in his shirt-sleeves along a road 18 miles from this city.

Blue with cold, the Jasper (Ind.) fugitive, only one of three men at large after the jail break, offered no resistance when state policemen and a deputy sheriff apprehended him near Lake Odessa.

As the officers returned him to Ionia, Keefer said he had "walked all night to keep from freezing." Temperatures had ranged between 12 and 15 degrees below zero.

One Wounded Fatally

One of his companions in the jail break, Mial Younglove, 22, of Lowell, Mich., was wounded fatally by Sheriff Herbert Ross. His body was found a block from the jail.

The other jail-breaker, Don Boerma, 20, was captured by officers who trailed him to Lowell, whence he had fled in a stolen automobile.

The break occurred when Sheriff Ross, summoned to the cell occupied by the three, was slugged, Mrs. Mary Ross, the sheriff's wife, attempted to stop the fleeing men, but was hurled aside.

The fugitives gained the jail yard, Ross emptied his gun. He believed he had wounded both Younglove and Boerma.

A fourth prisoner subsequently told the sheriff that the break had been planned for Saturday night but was postponed.

Passengers Rob Cab Driver

Two passengers robbed Russell Wood, 24, of 523 N. Delaware-st., a taxi driver, of \$4 last night after he had taken them to English-av and Rural-st. The bandits escaped on foot.

RESETTLEMENT HEAD



With a program designed to speed up rehabilitation in five states, R. C. Smith of Champaign, Ill., this week becomes regional director of Rural Resettlement work in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Iowa and Missouri.

He was named to succeed E. A. Norton, who resigned to accept a position with the Soil Conservation Service.

I. A. C. PLAYERS WIN STATE BRIDGE CROWN

Team-of-Four Title Decided in Play at Buschmann Studio.

The Indiana team-of-four bridge championship of the United States Bridge Association is held today by the Indianapolis Athletic Club team of Walter J. Pray, Lawrence J. Welch, F. Roland Buck and E. E. Gates Jr.

The team finished with 31 points in play at the Buschmann Studio, 4650 N. Meridian-st., for which eight teams qualified. Runners-up were Mrs. E. J. Ittenbach, Gaylord S. Morton, Robert Wood and H. C. Hildebrandt. Third place went to Mrs. Frank Abbott, Fred Schneider, E. R. Blackwell and Harold Lewis.

The fourth team was comprised of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson N. Cox and Dr. and Mrs. Coen Luckett, Terre Haute.

FEDERAL LOANS AVAILABLE FOR NEEDY FARMERS

RRA Offers Aid Through Sound Management, Director Says.

Times Special

LAFAYETTE, Ind., Jan. 27.—Short term loans, at small interest rates, are available now to distressed Indiana farm families. E. A. Norton, regional director of the Rural Resettlement Administration, announced today.

The plan, a result of changes in the agricultural policies of RRA, offers assistance through a sound farm management system, Mr. Norton stated.

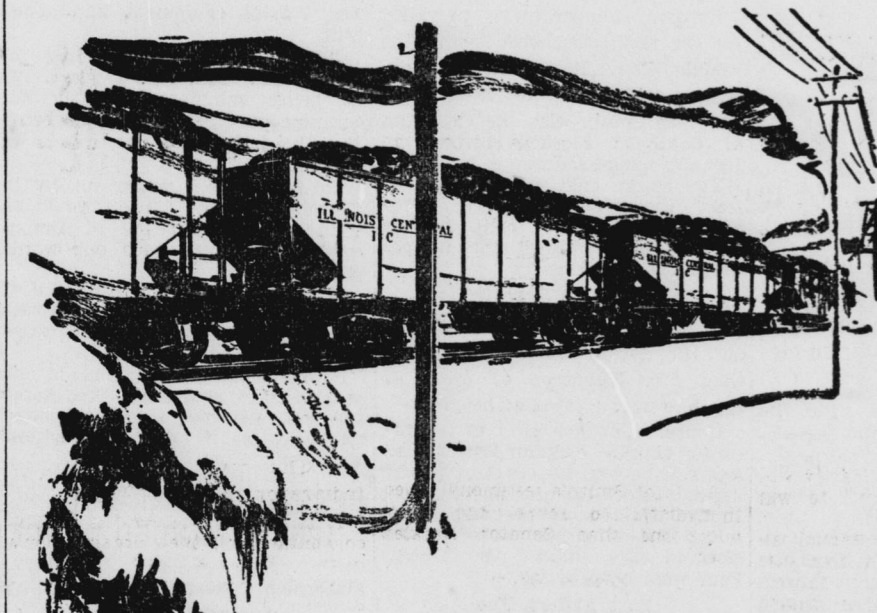
A policy of credit plus supervision is to be carried out by local supervisors and county agricultural agents. Recipients of loans are to be assisted in adapting farming operations to agricultural conditions, and in improving soil through rotation and erosion-control practices, the official explained.

"Those eligible for loans include farm owners, tenants, share-croppers, farm laborers or persons who, when last employed, obtained a major portion of their income from farming operations," Mr. Norton said. "In addition, they must be heads of destitute families and unable to secure credit at reasonable terms from recognized financial and private credit agencies."

The purpose of the loans, he explained, is to give deserving people funds for tools, livestock, seed, fertilizer and other equipment. A maximum of five years is to be allowed for repayment of loans for livestock, farm implements and other heavy equipment. Loans for rent, seed, fertilizer and subsistence will be made on the basis of one or two years' time.

Father, Son Form Law Firm

Adolph G. Emhardt has begun law practice with his son, Adolph G. Emhardt Jr., under the name of Emhardt, with office at 302 Kresge Building.



Carloads of Diamonds

A SEVERE and unexpected cold wave emptied the fuel bins of a great city hospital.

Coal was to be had at the mines, hundreds of miles away. Could it be delivered in time?

The question was put to the Illinois Central. Instant was the response. A passing train was stopped at the mine. Soon across the snow-swept prairies sped the carloads of precious black diamonds.

It was a welcome avalanche that thundered into the hospital's bins, just in time.

COAL isn't a perishable commodity, but there are times when it has to be handled as fast freight. It is the pride of the Illinois Central that it can—and does—provide the type of service needed to meet an emergency.

J. B. Brown
President

ILLINOIS CENTRAL

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January Sales

Convenient TERMS

State-Wide Delivery at No Additional Charge

7-Piece Bedroom SUITE

Finished in Walnut **\$49.85**

- Full Size Bed • 45-Lb. Mattress
- 4-Drawer Chest • Coil Spring
- Choice of Dresser or Vanity
- 2 Good Pillows

We are offering this well-made, serviceable, attractively finished outfit in response to many of our customers' requests for a quality bedroom group that could be bought at a low price—and in odd-piece combinations. You will notice that we offer a poster bed, 4-drawer chest and choice of vanity or dresser... all in rich, brown walnut finish... in addition to a mattress, spring and pillows... at a price that is certainly in keeping with today's limited budgets. Pieces may be purchased separately, if desired. Vanity Bench to match is \$3.95.

Also at Our Fountain Square Store. 1054 Virginia Ave.

STORE OPEN TONIGHT FROM 7 TO 9:30

The Banner-Whitehill Riley
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31 South Meridian