

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 the Bowes' hour. I have sat in a test, and thousands of phone calls. The public had him on the spot. So he put the gong on again the next Sunday night. Her mother, the blacksmith, came with her. She didn't get the gong that night. The boys say she didn't sing a bit better the second time, either.

BUT the main reason I feel the "gong guys" are not fixed up ahead of time is that Bowes is too shrewd.

If it were true and the public got on to it, he knows interest would fade like a rose in blast furnace.

As some of his men point out, more than 100 people have got the gong since the amateur hour started.

Bowes had made confederates of all these people, one of them sooner or later would have spilled the beans.

Nobody ever has.

Tonight—How the amateurs are selected.

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.

Frazee 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 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 Penkerton, 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 pro-

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 Furtive 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."

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LOCAL AND NETWORK DIALS

Member stations and kilocycles of the network are:

NBC-WEAF—WLW (760), WIRE (1460), WTAM (1070), WMAQ (670), and WSM (650).

NBC-WJZ—WLW (700), WIRE (1460), WENR (870), WLS (870), WMAQ (670), and WSM (650).

CBS-WABC—WFBM (1230), WOVO (1160), and WBBM (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.)

P.M.

4—Al Pearce and gang (N) WEAf.

Bob Graham's band WLW.

Cadet Quartet (C) WFBM.

4:15—Radio Advertising WLW.

Radio Journeys (N) WJZ.

Tea Time Tunes WFBM.

Patti Chapin (C).

4:30—Radio Advertising Melody, Willard Singers WIRE.

Ton Mix (N) WEAf.

Singin' in the Rain (N) WJZ.

Rae Eleanor Hall (C).

4:45—James Wilkinson (N) WEAf, WIRE.

Lillian Orphan Annie (N) WJZ.

WLW.

The Goldbergs (C) WFBM.

5—Flying Time (N) WEAf, WIRE.

Old Fashioned Girl WLW.

Bohemian WIRE.

Buck Rogers (C).

5:15—Connie Gilchrist (N) WEAf, WIRE.

Conservation talk WFBM.

5:30—Joe (N) WEAf, WIRE.

Enric Madriguera's Or' WLW.

Bohemian WIRE.

Lowell Thomas (UN) WJZ, WLW.

Rhythm Parade (N) WEAf, WIRE.

Music (C) WFBM.

5:45—Sons of the Pioneers (N) WEAf.

WLW.

6—Schultz Family WIRE.

Amos 'n' Andy (N) WEAf, WIRE.

Dinner Talk (N) WJZ.

Let's Sing (N) WFBM.

Muri and Margie (C).

6:15—Uncle Ezra's station (N) WEAf.

WLW.

7—Midnight—Trude York's Or. WLW.

A.M.

12:45—Will Osborne's Or. (M) WLW.

12:45—Midnight Flyers (M) WLW.

12:45—Enric Madriguera's Or. WLW.

TUESDAY

A.M.

6:30—Jolly Bill and Jane (N) WEAf.

Morning Devotions WLW.

Pollack and Lawhurst (N) WJZ.

Organ Reville (C).

6:45—Morning Devotions WIRE.

New York (N) WFBM.

7:15—Morning Devotions WIRE.

Divano trio WLW.

Early Birds (C) WFBM.

7:30—Cheerio (N) WEAf, WLW.

Freddie Miller (C).

7:45—Music (N) WZB, WLW.

Salon Musicals (C).

8—Joe Emerson WLW.

Breakfast Club (N) WEAf.

With Saver (N) WFBM.

Big Band review (C) WFBM.

Fields and Hall (N) WEAf, WIRE.

Souvenirs of Songs WLW.

8:30—Way Down East WLW.

Best Short Waves

TOKIO—2 p. m.—Entertainment from Japan. JWM, Nazaki, 27.9

BERLIN—2 p. m.—Music, DJC, 49.8

8:30—Globe—News. 2RO, 31.1 m.

PARIS—5:15 a.m.—Concert. FTA, 96.5 kc.

9:30—Globe—News. OSD, 25.5 m. (11,750 kc.).

9:45—Contended program (N) WEAf.

Jury Trial WLW.

King of Devils (N) WJZ.

Wayne King's (C) WFBM.

9:30—Musical Moments WIRE.

Radio Forum (N) WEAf.

Radio Broadcast WLW.

Ray Knights Cuckoo hour (N) WJZ.

10:15—Variety WIRE.

Painted Dreams (M) WLW.

Madison ensemble (C).

10:15—Jerry Brannon WIRE.

Studio Alice (M) WLW.

Popular Varieties WFBM.

Three Keys (C).

10:30—Sammy Kaye's (N) WIRE.

Singing Neighbor WLW.

Shut Up and Air WLW.

Mrs. Wiggs (C).

10:45—Piano Recital (N) WFBM.

Broadway Ciderella (M) WLW.

11—Cowboy WIRE.

Alvin (M) WLW.

Simpson boys (N) WJZ.

Voice of Experience (C) WFBM.

11:15—Hoagy and Sassafraz (N) WIRE.

WIRE.

Dream Singer (M) WLW.

Spicy Stories (N) WFBM.

Capitols (C) WFBM.

11:30—Merry Madcaps (N) WIRE.

Livestock weather WLW.

Flame (N) WIRE.

Life of Mary Marin (C) WFBM.

11:45—Farm and Home hour WLW.

Five Star Jones (C) WFBM.

12—Noon—Sammy Kaye's (N) WIRE.

Flying Squadron WFBM.

12:30—Ideal reporter WIRE.

Castles of Romance (N) WJZ.

12:45—Music Guild (N) WEAf, WIRE.

Rochester Civic (N) WJZ.

Mayday Medley (C) WFBM.

Relief speaker (C).

1 WALTER HICKMAN WIRE.

Contemporary Writers WLW.

Behind the Bookends (C) WFBM.

1:15—Nature Stories