

## BEHIND THE MIKE

Gracie Allen Is 4 Years Old Tonight (on Radio); Burns Also on Program.

BY RALPH NORMAN

SILLNESS zoomed to a new high in New York when George Burns and Gracie Allen, finishing a week's theater engagement, broke four all-time records. The netwits topped the box office intake, the attendance high for a week (106,000), the attendance high for any single day, and the total number of refunds made to people unable to see the show because of crowds.

This is a big week for the comedy team. After the smashing theater engagement, which failed to affect Gracie, however, they were guests of Harry Horlick Monday night, and tonight at 7:30 on CBS (WFBM) they are to celebrate their fourth anniversary of continuous broadcasting.

Tomorrow morning they leave for the West Coast where George is to be seen and Gracie heard in a new picture.

We received from Gracie an invitation to her anniversary party tonight, and we pass it on to you:

To Whom It May Not Concern:

I hereby regret that you can not be present (or maybe bring presents—or maybe both) at the party celebrating our fourth anniversary Wednesday on account of I can't give any party on account of my daddy pawned all the silverware and napkins on account of he wanted to celebrate his fourth anniversary on straight Scotch. It was to have been a double celebration on account of my sister's birthday cake is seven years old, and we are giving it, too. Anyhow, thanks for inviting me to your four years on the air party—but for reasons too trivial to mention I won't be able to come because my drunk uncle went ice skating and fell through the ice and was seriously diluted.

Gracie (Miss Otis)

Allen Regrets

P. S. — George

Burns regrets that on their fourth radio

anniversary George Burns

knows what she's talking about

but then, who does?

FROM CBS studios, we have learned more about the comedians.

Dr. Alonzo Stuif, Gracie's personal physician, believes the comedy team can remain on the air indefinitely.

"Our report on Miss Allen," writes Dr. Stuif, "shows that this type which we experts call 'the stationary—mental—meandrinoid—type-of-delayed humor, is indestructible, if not colossal. Gracie is good for another hundred years." He refused to speculate on the audience.

Experts estimate that Gracie in four years of broadcasting has uttered over 875,883,756,000,000 words, none of which make much sense. If broadcast at the same time, housing experts agree that every home in America would be unroofed in practically no time.

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About George Burns—was born in New York, his real name, Nat Birnbaum . . . became printer at early age to help support family . . . made stage debut at Coney Island as a dancer, split \$5 with three other boys . . . played throughout this country, Canada, England in vaudeville . . . wears glasses when reading script . . . recently thought he was going blind when optician gave him wrong pair of glasses . . . met Gracie in New Jersey theater . . . first went on air five years ago in London . . . writes much of own material . . . likes golf, prize fights, bridge, and Gracie.

Taking Gracie seriously—Miss

Allen was born in San Francisco, schooled in a convent, later studied singing and dancing . . . during first stage appearance, she tripped and fell, the audience howled . . . next night she cut the fall out of the act, was fired for ruining the show . . . decided a secretary's life was the life for her, but then she met George . . . once received 225,000 letters in four days during her miss-

ing brother search . . . prefers to live in cities . . . never has enough of rain, flowers, sleep, mysteries or perfume . . . always is expected to be dumb, but really isn't.

BOAKE CARTER's sponsor states

that no censorship has been

exercised over Carter's comments,

nor will there be in the future any

censorship of his radio talks. Mr.

Carter is to be the sole judge as to

what he will say and how he will

say it. The comments and opinions

expressed by him on the air are his

and his alone. Mr. Carter broadcasts on CBS at 6:45 each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evenings.

Paul Whiteman was working in the control room of the NBC New York studios, trying to iron a program problem, when a quiet, unassuming man walked in.

"Kindly get the—out of here," said Paul.

An assistant shook Paul's hand, and remarked, "Nice going, boy that was only Nelson Rockefeller."

When your-year-old Ann Shelley joins One Man's Family over NBC-WEAF (WLW) at 7 tonight, she will make a debut in the strictest sense of the word. She never has faced an audience of any kind. With her little partner, Richard Sylvus, the couple probably are the youngest juvenile team on the air, at least on a nation-wide network.

If Fred Allen, when he antics on Town Hall tonight, NBC-WEAF (WLW) at 8, sounds suave and at ease, he deceives. He isn't.

A single glass of orange juice usually is the only nourishment he takes all day Wednesday. He finds he is under such a tension that he works better without food. Even after his broadcast, he has only a light meal, resuming his regular diet on Thursday.

A zither, on which many a Ba

varian tune had been played before Napoleon made his name famous, is to be brought to Town Hall Tonight, NBC-WEAF (WLW) at 8, by an Al

ien amateur, Ruth Willkomm. Miss Willkomm learned to play the instrument, which had belonged to her great-great-grandfather, when a child in Friburg, Germany. Miss Willkomm believes her zither is the oldest in America.

Postmaster General James A.

Farley is to speak over unan-

nounced stations of the NBC and

CBS networks at 9:45 tonight. His

address is to originate in Miami,

Fla., and is expected to be an an-

swer to Alfred E. Smith's Liberty

League address.

## LOCAL AND NETWORK DIALS

ABREATIONS: N—National Broadcast Co.; C—Columbia Broadcasting Co.; M—Mutual Broadcast Co.; Or—Orchestra.

Member stations and kilocycles of the network are:

NBC-WEAF—WLW (700), WIRE (1400), WTAM (1070), WMHQ (870), and WSM (860).

NBC-WJZ—WLW (700), WIRE (1100), WENR (870), WLS (870), WMHQ (870), and WSM (860).

CBS-WABC—WJFM (1230), WOVO (1160), and WBMF (770).

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

## WEDNESDAY

A. M.

4—Symphonies (C) WFBM, Concert (N) WEAF, Quotations (C) WLS, Toy Band (N) WLW.

4:15—Teen Time Tunes WFBM, Clyde Barrie (C) WLS, Billie Rose (N) WJZ, Jack Armstrong (C) WLS.

4:30—Jack Armstrong (C) WLS, Tom Mix (N) WEAF, Singers (N) WLS, WLS.

4:45—WLS Singers (N) WLS, Goldberg (C) WFBM, Terri La Franconi (N) WEAF, Orphan Annie (N) WJZ, WLW.

5—Silhouettes WFBM, Buck Rogers (C) Flying Ace (N) WEAF, WIRE, WLS.

5:15—School Sketches WFBM, News (N) WEAF, Lee Gordon (C) WIRE, WLW.

5:30—Wheeler Mission WFBM, Eddie Madriguera's Or. (C) WIRE, King of Hearts (N) WEAF, WLW.

5:45—Milton's Or. (C) WIRE, Billy and Betty (N) WEAF, Andie (N) WEAF, WLS.

6:45—WPSB (C) WLS, Tom Thomas (N) WJZ, WLW.

7—Cavalcade of America (C) WFBM, One Man's Family (N) WEAF, WLW.

7:30—Teen Time (C) WIRE, Federal Housing Task WIRE, Rendezvous (N) WJZ.

7:30—Burns and Alie. (C) WFBM, Late Father Serenade (N) WEAF, WLW.

8—Lily Pond (C) WFBM, Town Hall Tonight (N) WEAF, Corn Cob Pipe Club (N) WIRE.

8:30—Roy Noble (C) WFBM, WIRE, WLW.

9—Gang Busters (C) WFBM, Dramatic Sketch (N) WEAF, John Charles Thomas (N) WJZ, WLW.

9:30—March of Time (C) WFBM, Bucknell Alumni Program (N) WEAF.

10—Popular Varieties WFBM, Studio 7 (N) WEAF, Singers (N) WIRE, WLW.

10:15—Popular Varieties WFBM, Studio 7 (N) WEAF, Singers (N) WIRE, WLW.

10:30—Mrs. Farrell's Kitchen WFBM, U. S. Army (N) WEAF, WLW.

10:45—Bluebirds (C) Broadway Cinderella (M) WLW.

11—Voice of Experience (C) WFBM, Marie De Ville (N) WEAF, WLW.

11:45—Happy Jack (N) WEAF, WLW.

12—Home Sweet Home (N) WEAF, WLW.

12:45—Breen and de Rose (N) WEAF, Today's Children (N) WJZ, WLW.

1—Mary Baker (C) WIRE, WLW.

1:15—Dorothy Lamour (N) WJZ.

10:15—News WFBM.

10:30—Abe Lyman's Or. (C) WIRE, Dan Newmark's Or. (N) WJZ.

10:45—Musical Moments WFBM, Drama of the Skies (C) WIRE.

11—Matinees (C) WFBM, WIRE, WLW.

11:30—Matinees (C) WFBM, Merry Macaques (N) WEAF, WLW.

11:45—Five Star Jones (C) WFBM, Farm and Home Hour (N) WLW.

12—Noon—Mary Baker's Album WFBM, Home and Garden Club (C) WIRE, WLW.

12:45—Concert Ensemble (N) WEAF, Farm and Home Hour (C) WIRE, WLW.

1:15—Happy Hollow (C) WFBM, Stories WLW.

1:30—School of the Air (C) WFBM, This Week (N) WEAF, WLW.

1:45—Midday Education WIRE.

2:30—Do You Remember (C) WFBM, WLW.

2:45—Geography of Foreign Lands WLW.

2—Oleander (C) WFBM, Forever Young (N) WEAF, WLW.

2:15—D. D. Casement (C) WFBM, Ma Perkins (N) WEAF, WLW.

2:30—Midday Education WIRE.

3—Old Kentucky (C) WFBM, Girl Along (N) WEAF, WLW.

3:30—Old Kentucky (C) WFBM, Girl Along (N) WEAF, WLW.

3:45—Tintype Tenor (N) WEAF, WLW.

4:15—Matinees (C) WFBM, WIRE, WLW.

4:30—Curtain Call (C) WFBM, WLW.

4:45—Howells and Wright (C) WFBM, Gen. Arnold (N) WJZ, WLW.

5:15—Howells and Wright (C) WFBM, Gen. Arnold (N) WJZ, WLW.

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