

RED HORSE PLAYERS LINKED BY PHONE

Beatrice Lillie Broadcasts From Philadelphia While Rest of Cast Performs in New York Studio

Voice Is Carried to WABC by Way of Chicago Because of Uncertain Communications Due to Floods Swirling Through Pennsylvania.

BY RALPH NORMAN

FOR a radio program cast to go on tour is not unusual, but when technical problems become difficult for production men. For instance, Beatrice Lillie, who has signed for the Flying Red Horse Tavern program, CBS (WFBBM) at 7, after guest starring for weeks, went on the air last week from Philadelphia, with the rest of the cast in New York. Although the two cities are not far apart, several thousand miles of telephone wires were necessary to link her voice with WABC's New York studio.

No particular technical difficulties would have been involved had telephone lines between New York and Philadelphia been available, but none were. It was necessary to open two lines from

Philadelphia to New York through Chicago at a time when flood conditions in western Pennsylvania made communication uncertain.

Distance also caused a perceptible lag of about one-quarter second between the time Miss Lillie spoke and the time her voice came back through the loud speaker. This delay was disconcerting, finally causing a last-minute re-routing of lines through Cleveland, cutting the lag sufficiently to put Miss Lillie at ease.

Touring in "At Home Abroad," Miss Lillie tonight will broadcast from Toronto, the city of her birth. No doubt to listeners her part will be co-ordinated with Walter Woolf King and Lennie Hayton's orchestra in New York so that it will be hard to tell she isn't in the studio with them, but don't forget that days and dollars are behind the smooth workings of the Flying Red Horse Tavern broadcast.

A prediction for the Major Bowes fans—the Major will announce an Indianapolis "honor" night in a few weeks, when local listeners are to have the privilege to vote by telephone. The usual methods will be used to publicize the Amateur Hour in this vicinity. No announcement has been made as to date, but plans are under way and announcement may be expected soon.

A WEARY March of Time staff, after a series of 150 performances, was packed ready for vacations. Westbrook van Voorhis, narrator, and Jack Smart, actor, sped by airplane to Nassau. Others left or were ready to leave in other directions. And then came news a new sponsor had been signed, the program would continue without interruption. One by one the cast was routed out of hiding, out of bed, off trains, out of vacation resorts.

And yet on Monday afternoon a few hours before the new series began, anxious directors were watching the clear sky of the Atlantic for an airplane which finally brought back from Nassau two would-be vacationers. The program went on Monday night as usual, will continue indefinitely at the same hour, CBS (WFBBM) at 9:30 Monday through Friday.

Heart beats which sounded over the air in the CBS broadcast of Poe's "Tell Tale Heart" in the Ghost Stories series came from a real heart. An electrical stethoscope was placed at an actor's breast, the sound was conveyed through special microphones and amplifiers. In rehearsal the heart beat was even, but on the air it "stepped up" noticeably.

ONE of WFBBM's local programs features Earl Gordon, the Melody Master, at the piano in special arrangements in which he gives his impressions of leading piano artists. His repertoire has included Vincent Lopez, Harry Stoddard, Fats Waller, Harry C. Michael, Eddie Duchin and Zez Confrey. At 5:30 Sunday afternoon the music of Ray Noble is to be featured, and on future broadcasts he will give his interpretations of Lee Sims, Rudolf Frim, Ted FioRito and Cleo Brown. The WFBBM pianist learns the style of various artists by playing phonograph records and listening to radio programs.

HARRY SOSNIK and Al Pearce will change places tonight. Harry will do the comedy and Al is to lead the band when they broadcast at 8 on NBC-WJZ (WIRE). The new film version of Sinclair Lewis' "Main Street," entitled, "I Married a Doctor," is to be previewed by Pat O'Brien, Josephine Hutchinson, Ross Alexander, Guy Kibbee and Louise Fazenda on Hollywood Hotel, CBS (WFBBM) at 8. The official Texas Centennial song, "Texas Star," is to be played on the radio for the first time tonight by Fred Waring's Pennsylvanians, NBC (WIRE) at 8:30. . . . Jesse Block and Eve Sully are to be Richard Humber's guest artists, CBS (WFBBM) at 9. CBS will broadcast the final basketball game in Olympic competitions between undefeated McPherson Oilers and undefeated Temple University at 9:45 tonight.

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