

## Inside Indianapolis

**KNIGHTSTOWN'S** Midkiff brothers have played important roles in the Hoosier railroad industry for over half a century.

Since the early 1890's John, Frank and Roscoe Midkiff routed traffic over the Pennsylvania Railroad's tracks via the telegraph key. Only John is active now, the others having retired.

Last week 71-year-old John E. Midkiff completed 50 years with the railroad. In a simple ceremony L. A. Evans, Indianapolis Division superintendent, presented him a gold service award.

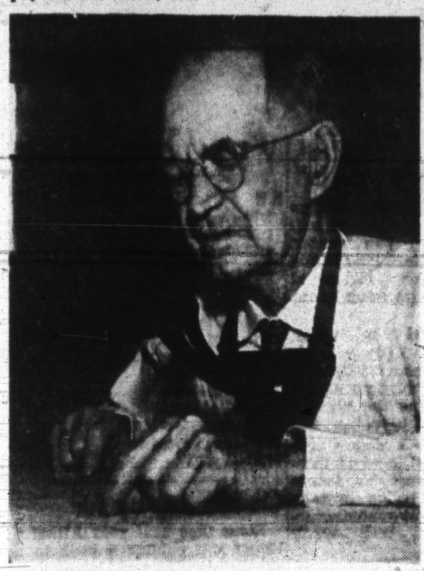
"I've enjoyed every day of the 50 years, too," said Mr. Midkiff to Mr. Evans. "My work has always been a pleasure."

The veteran telegrapher has routed passenger and freight traffic from the Thorne Tower at the Franklin Rd. crossing for the past 30 years. He is a familiar figure to railroaders throughout the Indianapolis Division.

### Decided on Telegraphy

MR. MIDKIFF was born on a Hancock County farm July 3, 1878. One of 10 children, he worked on the farm and went through the eighth grade in Knightstown schools.

In the meantime, his brother Frank had already entered railroad work. Seeing that Frank had a "good job," John decided to make telegraphy his life work, too.



John E. Midkiff... 50 years as a telegrapher.

## Hoosier Profile

At the age of 18 Mr. Midkiff went to work in the Knightstown Pennsylvania station. He was paid \$10 a month. While helping out with office chores, he learned the Morse code key.

Mr. Midkiff recalls now that it took him two years to become proficient in telegraphy. "It isn't hard to learn if a person has the time to put his mind to it," he says.

In 1901 Mr. Midkiff transferred to the Michigan Division of the Big Four Railroad with offices in Benton Harbor. But he returned to the Pennsylvania in 1904 to launch 45 years of uninterrupted service.

For several years the Midkiff brothers completely dominated the telegraph setup in the Knightstown office. Frank, Roscoe and John worked an eight-hour shift apiece around the clock.

From Knightstown Mr. Midkiff moved up to the railroad's Indianapolis block office on the East Side in 1914.

During his long service, Mr. Midkiff has seen the railroad grow by leaps and bounds. Freight traffic has increased greatly, many safety features in railroad have been introduced and engines have changed from coal-burning to diesel.

Eight years ago his telegraphy work was succeeded by a modern remote control system. Now, he takes train orders over a voice system and operates siding switches as far as 25 miles away from his office.

"We use the key now only to test the wires," he says somewhat nostalgically. "Everything is voice operated now."

Mr. Midkiff says he has handled up to 38 trains during one eight-hour "trip." Occasionally he has been pressed into 24-hour duty. But normally he routes 12 to 15 trains each shift.

### Never a Mistake

THE VETERAN telegrapher says he has never been called on for emergency service during a bad train wreck. "Everything always has been perfect," he points out.

Has he ever made a mistake in his train routing? Mr. Midkiff quickly replies, "If any train ever got away from me I wouldn't be here today."

Besides his completion of 50 years' service, Mr. Midkiff celebrated another milestone last month—his 42nd wedding anniversary. He and his wife, the former Mary Slaughter, live in a neat little cottage at 18 N. Hamilton Ave.

After work Mr. Midkiff often putters around his lawn which is his main relaxation activity. "I have the prettiest lawn in my neighborhood," he proudly boasts.

Mr. Midkiff says he plans to retire within a year and begin a well-earned rest. Maybe take a trip. The veteran railroader says, "I've never cared too much for travel." (By John Wilson).

## NEIGHBORHOOD THEATERS

**DOWNTOWN**  
AMERICAN—Mighty Joe Young and Johnny Stool Pigeon  
BOULEVARD—Take Me Out to the Ballgame and "Son of God's Country"

**NORTHWEST**  
ARLINGTON—Since You Went Away and "Fighting Fools"  
BELL—Tarnished Magic Fountain and "Lionel Lincoln"

**WEST SIDE**  
BELL—Tarnished Magic Fountain and "Lionel Lincoln"  
BELL—Tarnished Magic Fountain and "Lionel Lincoln"

**EAST SIDE**  
ARLINGTON—Since You Went Away and "Fighting Fools"  
BELL—Tarnished Magic Fountain and "Lionel Lincoln"

**SOUTH SIDE**  
ARLINGTON—Since You Went Away and "Fighting Fools"  
BELL—Tarnished Magic Fountain and "Lionel Lincoln"

**CENTRAL**  
ARLINGTON—Since You Went Away and "Fighting Fools"  
BELL—Tarnished Magic Fountain and "Lionel Lincoln"

**CLAY**  
ARLINGTON—Since You Went Away and "Fighting Fools"  
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## Small Bands Pin Hopes on Shows

**Many Crowded Out Of Ballroom Circuit**

By R. K. SHULL

Variety shows may be the solution to the plight of the small band.

Many of the "little name" bandleaders are being crowded out of the ballroom circuit during the present season as headliners such as Clyde McCoys, Artie Shaw and a host of the big-timers have decided to go back after the dancer's dollar.

Sam Donahue and his band have found an easy remedy. He's cashing in on the revival of vaudeville, backing the Ted Mack Amateur Show now at the Lyric Theater.

Sam and band are working four shows daily, with continuous engagements, which is more than many of his contemporaries boast.

Comedian-dancer Danny Drayson emcees the show, giving the nine amateur acts the kind of encouragement they need to give out with their best.

The talent covered the full scope, from tap routines and animal imitations to a baritone by the name of Henry Mackross who sang an aria from "The Barber of Seville."

Get a "Pro" Polish

Nice thing about the Mack show is that the amateurs have been on the stage long enough to have a professional polish, but the wholehearted enthusiasm of trying-to-make-good still sticks with them.

As an added attraction, Tommy Wright, winner of Thursday night's radio contest, has flown here to appear with the show. Tommy has a fine boy-soprano voice, but it will take several days for the versatile Mr. Drayson to eliminate the ego from Tommy's stage character.

They're all good or they wouldn't be on the program, but some are really professional.

**Expect Storm to Cut Radio Reception**

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5—A storm that will interfere with short wave radio reception was predicted for next Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 9 and 10, by forecasters at the National Bureau of Standards, here today. A large sun spot exhibiting unusual corona activity is expected to cause the radio storm.

Reception conditions in the meantime are expected to be fair today, and good tomorrow through Tuesday.

NOV. 13...PICTURE MAGAZINE RACING...WITH SUNDAY TIMES

**COMING SOON!**  
Tremendously Important!  
PROVES MORAL LIVING PAYS  
"MOM AND DAD"  
MAYWOOD DRIVE-IN THEATRE

The Indianapolis Branch of the English Speaking Union

Cordially invites the public to hear an address by

GEN. CARLOS P. ROMULO  
President of the United Nations  
Tonight, Nov. 5, at the WAR MEMORIAL BLDG.  
at 8 P. M.

Gen. Romulo is a famous orator, and will speak on a subject of great interest. This may be your only opportunity to hear such a world-famous personality.

ADMISSION IS FREE

## Times Amusement Clock

**CIRCLE**  
"The Story of Seabiscuit" with Paul Douglas, Barry Fitzgerald and John Hodiak  
11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 5:30, 7:45, 9:30

**CORONET**  
"Dulcimer Street" with Richard Widmark and Alvin Karpis  
11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 5:30, 7:45, 9:30

**ESQUIRE**  
"Hallelujah" with Laurence Olivier  
11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 5:30, 7:45, 9:30

**INDIANA**  
"She Wore a Yellow Ribbon" with John Wayne, Joan Dillard and John Hodiak  
11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 5:30, 7:45, 9:30

**KEITH'S**  
"My Friend Irma" with Lina Barboza, Lina Barboza and Lina Barboza  
11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 5:30, 7:45, 9:30

**LOWE'S**  
"John Henry" with Larry Parks and John Hodiak  
11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 5:30, 7:45, 9:30

**LYRIC**  
"The Story of Seabiscuit" with Paul Douglas, Barry Fitzgerald and John Hodiak  
11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 5:30, 7:45, 9:30

**MURAT**  
"The Story of Seabiscuit" with Paul Douglas, Barry Fitzgerald and John Hodiak  
11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 5:30, 7:45, 9:30

**WESTSIDE**  
"The Story of Seabiscuit" with Paul Douglas, Barry Fitzgerald and John Hodiak  
11:15, 1:30, 3:45, 5:30, 7:45, 9:30

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## Sophisticated High School Play—'Village Green' Brings Howls

Civic Theater Production Tells Of Life in New Hampshire

By HENRY BUTLER

Civic Theater spectators last night enjoyed the opening of "Village Green."

The Carl Allensworth comedy of life and politics in a New Hampshire village has enough daring and earthiness to raise it above high-school-play level.

It's more sophisticated than boards of education permit high-school plays to be. But it has much of the busy animus and almost Biograph-sticker activity of a junior play.

A Typical Example

Take one honest, small-town, New England judge. Mix him in politics. Have a young artist, son of the local drunk, paint murals in

the new town hall. Have the artist, disappointed suitor of the judge's daughter, paint the daughter's face above the nude torso of a nursing mother who symbolizes fertility.

There's a situation. It has lots of comic possibilities, mostly on a fairly juvenile level. It makes a good play for numerous participants, who are required only to be active and plausible.

They walk in and out. They deliver their lines with some conviction. And the Civic veterans in the "Village Green" cast do especially well. I might say, with this rather synthetic play, the veterans do well because there's nothing to impede them. The play's clear sailing. Deceptively clear, since it offers no challenge to anybody in the cast.

"Play is OK" evidently is good entertainment, judging from the response of last night's spectators. There are some howling good lines in the play, not always obvious.

In order of appearance, last night's program listed four of the best contributors to mirth. Fred Kelly, as Judge Peabody, appropriately and intelligently dominates the proceedings. Paul McNamara, as Zeke Bentham, amiably alcoholic father of the controversial artist (Ben Janner, also good); Helen Morton, as the judge's wife (Mrs. Morton always has the right acting instincts); and Midge Kerlin, as Nora, the maid; lead off magnificently.

Portrays Hired Girl

Miss Kerlin, as a Civic newcomer, deserves mention for the briefly worded portrayal of a disgruntled hired-girl—nose-wiping, pale glances, general party-faced pouting and sluttishness.

Earl Davis, Civic veteran, as the Rev. Arthur McKnight, is forcible and credible, as are also: Jewell Lain, as Harriet; Lee Armstrong, as Henry Ames; Gene Oakes, as Hubert Carter; Donald Swinney, as the Rev. Horace Shurtless; Ralph Saunders, as Walter Godkin; Mildred Bendix, as Harmony Godkin; Gail Jaffe,

(Advertisement)

**Rain or Shine!**

EVERETT MOREHEAD is always on time, good weather or bad, delivering over-fresh Omar Bread and Pastries—direct from the Omar ovens—right to your door!

Like all Omar men, he is prompt and dependable—calls on his customers every other day—at about the same time each day.

Everett says, "Monday I will be carrying a feature item, Omar Fresh Orange Square Cake, for only 44c."

Get to know your Omar man! Call 141-1414, 3344 in Indianapolis.

**SATURDAY NIGHT JAMBOREE**

With "EMMA LOU" in Person, PLUS 15 Other Radio and Hillbilly Stars

2 HOUR SHOW - STARTS 10 P. M.

2110 Prospect MA-1440

**THE NEW AVALON**

2110 Prospect MA-1440

**TONIGHT**

FRANK FEHR

FRANK FEHR

FRANK FEHR

FRANK FEHR

FRANK FEHR

FRANK FEHR

FRANK FEHR

FRANK FEHR

FRANK FEHR

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FRANK FEHR

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FRANK FEHR

## MAYWOOD Drive-In

Drive-In  
Road 67 • Show Starts 6:30  
Bert Lancaster—Yvonne DeCarlo  
DAN  
DUTY  
RAY ROGERS—JANE FRAZER  
In Color  
LOOK! NEW IN-CAR SPEAKERS

**SPECIALIZING**  
In SUNDAY DINNERS  
• Golden Fried Shrimp  
• New England Scallops  
• Steaks and Chops  
• Roast Turkey Cranberry Sauce  
We can accommodate small parties and family groups  
We Bake Our Own Pies  
COURTEOUS TABLE SERVICE  
CLOSING AT 11:30 P. M.  
EMERTON RESTAURANT  
100 E. 10TH ST.  
CENT OF PARKING SPACE

**KEITH'S**  
My Friend Irma  
LUND—LYNN—D'FORE  
MARIE WILSON  
Tim Holt  
"Stagecoach Kid"

**INDIANA**  
SHE WORE A YELLOW RIBBON  
JOHN WAYNE—JOAN DILLARD  
JOHN AGAR  
THE ACADEMY AWARD SHORT FEATURE  
"SHE WORE A YELLOW RIBBON"  
Dance  
TONIGHT—SUN.  
ADM. TONITE \$1.10  
SUN., 5 P. M.  
TEEN DANCE  
ADM. 60¢—PARENTS FREE

**ROOF**  
AMATEUR HOUR  
TERRY MOORE—BON JOHNSON  
"MIGHTY JOE YOUNG"  
HOWARD DUFF—SHIRLEY WILSON  
"JOHNNY STOOL PIGEON"

**MURAT**  
NEXT TUESDAY  
MOST DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY  
SWEDEN  
Seats at Gladys Alvers Music Shoppe,  
128 N. Penn. St.—\$1.00—\$1.25—\$1.50

**WESTSIDE**  
OUTDOOR THEATRE  
700 W. WASHINGTON—SE-4061  
Roy Rogers—Adele Mara  
"Night Time in Nevada"  
Ginger Rogers—Cornel Wilde  
"It Had to Be You"  
Plus Cartoon Revue  
In-Car Speakers  
Children Under 15 Free

**DULCIMER STREET**  
First Run  
Indianapolis  
Showing  
MARTENS CONCERT  
MURAT THEATRE  
Sun. Aff'n. Nov. 20  
3:00 P. M.  
THOMAS L. THOMAS  
Baritone  
Seats Now \$3.00, \$3.00, \$2.40,  
\$1.80, \$1.20 Tax Included  
MARTENS CONCERTS, Inc.  
GLADYS ALVERS MUSIC SHOPPE  
120 N. Penn. St. FR. 3761

**BUD MILLS**  
Invites All His Friends to Come to His New and Beautiful  
CLUB EMERSON  
3300 S. EMERSON  
For An Evening of Fine Entertainment  
Dine and Dance to the Music of Larry Leggett's Swing Band Nightly Except Monday  
FINE STEAK AND CHICKEN DINNERS  
For Res. Call GA. 2697. We Cater to Private Parties

**ARLINGTON**  
Continuous Today—Doors Open 11:45  
Claudette Colbert  
Jennifer Jones  
"Since You Went Away"  
THE BOWERY BOYS  
"FIGHTING FOOLS"

**ESQUIRE**  
Exclusive DOLLAR ENGAGEMENT!  
(Plus 30c Federal Tax)  
BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR!  
BEST ACTOR OF THE YEAR!  
Laurence Olivier  
Hamlet  
By WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE  
A Universal International Release  
A J. ARTHUR RANK ENTERPRISE  
NO RESERVED SEATING  
SUN. AND MON. 1 P. M. 7:00 P. M.  
MON.-FRI. 1:30, 4:30, 6:30 and 9:00 P. M.  
10 to 5  
\$1.50 Thereafter \$1.75 Thereafter

**MUTUAL**  
BURLESQUE AS YOU LIKE IT—Featuring  
BETTY NOVAK and 6 Lovely Girl Features—6 With  
Comedians—Midnight Show Sat. Starts 11:30

## JOEY'S SINGING WEEK!

NEW MUSIC! NEW MAGIC!  
NEW TIMES...  
of the world's greatest entertainers!

**LARRY PARKS**  
COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENTS  
A SINEY DUCHMAN PRODUCTION  
BARBARA HALE  
RENEE HALL—DONATH—GORDON  
LARRY PARKS—MARTIN—SHAWNE  
Produced by SINEY DUCHMAN

**JOEY'S SINGING WEEK!**  
OPEN 10:45 A.M.  
PRICES FOR THIS ENGAGEMENT ONLY!  
MATS. 5 P. M. 55c • EVE. 90c • CHILD. (Under 12) 25c  
• PRICES INCLUDE TAX

**UPTOWN ST. CLAIR STRAND**  
GARY COOPER  
"SERGEANT YORK"  
WALTER BRENNAN  
LAST TIMES TODAY  
WILLIAM "Wild Bill" ELLIOT  
"HELL-FIRE" in TECHNICOLOR

**ORIENTAL**  
JUDY GARLAND—VAN JOHNSON  
"THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME"  
Open 12:45  
JOIN THE ROY ROGERS RIDERS CLUB  
CLIP APPLICATION COUPON IN INDIANAPOLIS TIMES TODAY

**FOUNTAIN SQUARE**  
MAT. TODAY—12:45 TILL 6:30  
GLENN FORD  
IDA LUPINO  
"LUST FOR GOLD"  
GEORGE RAFT  
NINA FUCH  
"Johnny Allegro"  
SANDERS—MANHANDLE—  
Eddie Dean  
"SHADOW VALLEY"—  
"CONGO WILD"