

Allen's Still Skeptical About TV

By EARL WILSON
My neighbor, Fred Allen, thinks television is very risky for comedians because the public gets to know exactly what they look like.

"So after a bad show when you're going home," Fred points out, "someone may slip out of a saloon and beat you brains out."

"Radio was also good to a lot of comedians because it never betrayed how homely some of us are."

"Although I must say, I think the men who used to take passport pictures are now the television camera men."

Fred—who lives up the street from the B.W. My Georgeous Mother-in-Law, Sluggo, our dog, Cookie, and me—is kidding, of course, when he talks this way, but he's perfectly serious when he adds:

"I think it's crazy to go into television until they get some more sets out."

Declares Holiday
"And so I'm not going to work next year."

Some people refuse to believe it. They didn't believe it on Nov. 29 when Fred gave me a little scoop to the effect that he was going off the air at the end of this season.

They still say, "Oh, he'll change his mind."

But Fred, who is about the biggest man on our street (7th ave.) and who is a familiar figure across the street at Max's Stage Delicatessen, has just explained:

"I've talked to my doctor and I'm going to quit for one season."

"You see guys 10 years younger than you drop dead, and you wonder."

"Besides, creative people should sit down once in a while and think. When you're doing a radio program, you don't get time to think, or to see anything but your script and your Hooper Rating. And when you look at either one of them, you get sicker."

He thinks the writing of a good comedy show once a week will become impossible eventually, and foresees the stars doing a show once every two or three weeks.

"It'll be sort of a circle, this way."



FRED ALLEN AND TELEVISION

Pretty soon the people who have been drawn into the saloons to see television will all have home sets. They'll quit going to saloons to see television. The saloons will discard their television sets because they won't draw customers anymore. Then the people seeing television at home will get so tired out of their homes and into the saloons to get away from it.

Fred's made it clear, of course, via the announcement of a new agreement with NBC, that his heart does not belong to William S. Paley.

CBS wanted him—was willing to pay him while he laid off next year to get him the following year—but

Fred decided to string along his agreement with Trammel, the NBC prez. His agreement with Trammel provides that the network will put him on the air after he has given 90 days' notice that he's ready to return.

Fred's also taken a serious interest in bringing Henry Morgan along as an NBC star. This is interesting because Fred and Henry once had a little feud.

Only One Different
But Fred maintains Morgan is the only "different" comedian around now, and helped launch him in his current program.

During the next few weeks, Fred will repeatedly appear on Henry's program, carrying through the gag that he's Henry's "sponsor."

you do it?"
I did it—18 years. (Of course, one was never ready to get up at 6.)

On the other hand, there's a certain loss of prestige involved; not enough to overwhelm the relief of knowing that I can be late for work without anybody in the station's listening range knowing about it, but enough to notice. (Look, I don't have to get up until about 7:30!) Frankly, I never had too high an opinion of my own newscasters from the viewpoint of delivery. In fact, I was so insecure that I never had my voice recorded until six or seven years ago—and then I never played that record.

It wasn't until last summer, when the Lionel Moores turned on their home recorder and picked up a conversation without my knowing it that I heard my own voice.

I miss the contact with boys and girls. No longer do parents say, "Here, Junior, is the man who tells you every morning to be careful about crossing the streets." I miss having people say, on first meeting, "Why, I thought you must be a big guy." (I'm 5 feet 6, weigh under 130.)

Radio is wonderful. But so is sleep.



Listeners Talk Back

By WILLIAM L. DOUDNA
(State Journal Radio Editor)

"After more than 18 years, how does it feel to be off the air?" my friends ask me.

My reactions, pals, are mixed. There's a feeling of relief about not being the slave of an alarm clock in the morning and the slave of a watch for 15 minutes later in the day.

There's a freedom to criticize other newscasters unaccompanied by the fear that, after printing a comment on some other announcer's boner, I'll make a worse one. (Like the day I pronounced circuit "ser-kute" three times, knowing each time it was wrong but being unable to correct myself.)

I said it a couple of extra times just to show listeners I knew the right pronunciation—and it still came out "ser-kute.")

At the same time, there's the satisfaction of being able to make a criticism without getting the comeback:

"Huh? If you know so much about it, why don't

The Sunday Crossword Puzzle

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 181 indicating starting positions for words. The grid is partially filled with letters.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE:
1. Retired
2. Heavyweight
3. Boxing
4. Champion
5. Perfume
6. Assistance
7. To move
8. Idleweight
9. Division of a country
10. Effike
11. Medicine
12. Ruffed
13. Movement
14. Poster
15. Lame sheep
16. Pleading mammals
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Easter Sunrise Services

(Earlier services were listed in The State Journal on Saturday.)
7 a. m.—Holy Wood Bowl (WISC): William Farnum, harp ensemble, choir, soloists; sermon by Dr. Lewis Evans.
7:05 a. m.—Grand Canyon (WIBA): Dr. C. F. Parker, Prescott, Ariz., speaker.
7:15 a. m.—Palm Springs, Calif. (WBBM): desert sunrise doves' flight, music, messages.
7:30 a. m.—Great Lakes Naval Training Station (WIBA): 105-voice choir, soloists... Garden of the Gods (WBBM): 300-voice high school choir, dramatization, sermon by the Rev. H. E. Hansen.
8 a. m.—Rose Bowl (WGN): Colleen Townsend, the Rev. Charles Templeton, choir, orchestra.
8:15 a. m.—Tokyo (WIBA): Dr. Daniel Poling.

Regular Religious Programs

9 a. m.—Radio Pulpit (WMAQ): "Too Great for the Grave"... Message of Israel (WISC): "Passover and Easter" Church of the Air (WBBM): "The Immigrant" Faith, Dr. J. F. Newton, Philadelphia Episcopal.
9:30 a. m.—Bethel Lutheran (WIBA): "A Prelude to Eternity" Rev. L. A. Benson.
10:30 a. m.—Church of the Faith (WISC): "A Stone Rolled Back".
11:30 a. m.—Ave Marie Hour (WISC): resurrection drama.
2:30 p. m.—National Vespers (WENR): "The Certitude of Eternal Life."
7 p. m.—Catholic Hour (WMAQ): "Jesus of the Scares."



EMERSON COTTEN

Other Special Events

1 p. m.—Easter Parades (WISC): New York, Washington, Detroit, Chicago, Hollywood.
7:30 p. m.—Triumph Hour (WKOW): Dan Dailey Irene Dunne, Jimmy Durante, Rita Johnson, Fibber McGee and Molly, J. Carroll Naish, Rosalind Russell, Robert Ryan, Lisbeth Scott, Dean Stockwell, Loretta Young, Bing Crosby, Ann Jamieson, Dorothy Maynor, Christopher Lynch, the Rev. Patrick Peyton.
9 p. m.—Welcome Back, Baseball (WBBM): Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, Dinah Shore, Claudette Colbert, Crosby's sons, Rhythmairs, John Scott Trotter's orchestra.

Discussion

10:30 a. m.—Reviewing Stand (WKOW): "The Meaning of Easter in a Modern World."
12:15 p. m.—Editor at Home (WISC): Easter at veterans' hospital.

12:30 p. m.—Round Table

(WMAQ): "The Challenge of Christian Faith."
3 p. m.—In Focus (WISC): Marty Lemberger, former navy diver, on underwater photography.

Drama

10 a. m.—Destination Freedom (WMAQ): story of Paul Lawrence Dunbar.
11:30 a. m.—Eternal Light (WMAQ): Passover drama.
12 m.—"The Son of Man" (WBBM): third annual presentation of Archibald MacLeish work; CBS Symphony orchestra and choir in Bach's B-minor mass.
1:30 p. m.—University Theater (WIBA): Dean Stockwell in "Huckleberry Finn."
3:30 p. m.—"This Year, Israel" (WISC): Paul Muni in Passover drama.
5 p. m.—Family Hour (WBBM): Joseph Cotten in "Easter Bonnet."
5:30 p. m.—Greatest Story (WENR): "The Resurrection."
5:45 p. m.—Voice of the Army (WISC): Janet Blair in "The Critic's Choice."
8 p. m.—NBC Theater (WIBA): Dana Andrews in "The Best Years of Our Lives"... Helen Hayes (WBBM): in "The Seven Miracles of Coubertin."
8:30 p. m.—Theater Guild (WISC): Dorothy McGuire and Tod Andrews in "Summer and Smoke."

Music

8 a. m.—Trinity Choir (WISC): "Glory to the Trinity," Rachmaninoff; "Te Deum Laudamus," Holst.



MUNI STOCKWELL

8:15 a. m.—E. Power Biggs (WBBM): Easter music by Bach, Krebs, Purcell.
8:30 a. m.—Miami High School Chorus (WGN): from Boca Raton, Fla.
8:45 a. m.—Trinity Choir (WBBM): Handel, Eccard, Bach.
10 a. m.—Fine Arts Quartet (WISC): "Death and the Maiden" quartet, Schubert.
10:30 a. m.—Salt Lake City Tabernacle Choir (WBBM): Easter concert.

Documentary

3:30 p. m.—It's Your Life (WMAQ): becomes half-hour Sunday program; "Having Her Baby at Home."

Baseball

1:25 p. m.—White Sox vs. Cubs (WIND and WJDD).

Variety

5:30 p. m.—Martin and Lewis (WIBA): with George Marshall, film director.
7 p. m.—Fred Allen (WIBA): with Bobby White, Moylan sisters.

Quiz

9:30 p. m.—Who Said That? (WIBA): Lee Tracy, Faye Emerson, Quentin Reynolds.

A large table listing radio broadcast schedules for various stations (WIBA, WISC, WKOW, WUBU, WBBM, WENR-WLS, WGN, WMAQ) on Sunday. Columns include station name, time, and program title.

A smaller table listing radio broadcast schedules for WFOV (104.9 Meacoyles) on Sunday. Columns include station name, time, and program title.

Gag Men Don't All Have Ulcers

By BOB THOMAS
HOLLYWOOD—Let's take a peek inside a radio gag factory. The profession of putting jokes into comedians' mouths is much maligned. People conceive of gag writers as ulcer-racked whip-lashed descendants of Joe Miller. I sought out a couple of them to find out what the species is really like.

No Pressure

"Our routine is different from writers for other comedians," Freedman, who has worked for them all. "There are no conferences, no rehearsals, no pressure."

"No jokes," ad libbed Murray. Each week the boys receive an outline of the next show from Edna Skelton Borage, Red's ex-wife and mentor. It's a dummy script containing a story line filled in with used material. The two boys retire separately to their homes and substitute the old material with new.

Songwriter Has Cat Fit over Success

NEW YORK, (UP)—Cats can go to the dogs, as far as Dick Manning is concerned. He wouldn't lift his pinkie to spare the whiskers of a single one of the little critters, although he's waxing pretty rich because of their purring.

Kaltenborn Gets Son as Aide

NEW YORK—Dr. Rolfe Kaltenborn has arrived here to accept a post with his father, H. V. Kaltenborn, NBC commentator, as his research assistant.

Pieced Together

They send their scripts to Edna, who literally pieces them together with scissors, paste and gags of her own. The show is previewed about twice as long as it should be. Then the giggles are weeded out from the boffs and the final script emerges.

The unused material is catalogued and filed away for another day. This requires Murray and Freedman to dream up new material weekly.

Runs out of People

He doesn't know what's going to become of him when he runs out of people to give them to. The unexpected guests are raising hob with his milk bill, and his three children raise Cain every time he gives one of the kittens away.

Wrote Better Stuff

Manning, 35, who also wrote "Treasure of Sierra Madre," "While the Angelus Was Ringing," and "Underneath the Linden Tree," said the popularity of his pussy cat song with the juke box soda with four straws set was a complete surprise, but not much of a one as the deluge of kittens which has rained down on his once happy home.

Utica Announces Chorus Contest

UTICA, N. Y.—A \$1,000 prize competition for mixed choruses of 75 or more voices will climax the Utica Eisteddfod, to be held here May 14 and 15. The festival was founded by Welshmen a century ago.

Why Be a "Bearded Lady?"

"I never counted 'em, but it seems like I've received millions," he said. And so, Manning has about decided that any future musical decorations on amours among the

Advertisement for RCA Victor recorded music, featuring an image of a record player and the text: "Hear the NEW RCA VICTOR SYSTEM OF RECORDED MUSIC".

Madison Wisconsin State Journal, Sunday, April 17, 1949