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Washington Digest

Radio Fills Economic, Social Needs of Farm

Programs Keep Listeners Up on Latest Doings and Aid Work, Marketing; Music. Plays Welcome Diversion.

> By BAUKHAGE News Analyst and Commentator,

WNU Service, 1616 Eye Street, N.W., | Washington, D. C.

When farm folk want to cut a rug, via the radio, they'll do it to the strain of "Turkey in the Straw," not "Chickery Chick." Farmers turn a cold shoulder on hot jive. However, both the musical gobbler and the syncopated hen play second fiddle as farm radio favorites to the good old-fashioned hymns, like "Rock of Ages," and "Onward, Christian Soldiers." But, down on the farm, the all-time top favorite on the radio hit parade is The farmer and his wife prefer the news broadcast to any other type of radio program.

These interesting preferences were brought to light recently by a survey published by the department of agriculture-a survey undertaken at the request of the Federal Communications commission to find out if radio was important to rural grams rural people tuned in in hope, and tuned out in despair.

something happen to it, nearly ev- ports, farm talks, and market data, tavrens in the right way". ery rural radio owner said some- radio becomes a sort of junior part-

"It would make an awful difference. It would be just like going back to old - fashioned

"We need the radio very much-we have a mile of bad road between the house and the mailbox, and sometimes get the mail only once a week." "That would be terrible! It'd

be just like having a corpse in Of course there were dissenters.

ers weren't backward about expressing their unflattering opinions For example:

"If it weren't for my family, I'd throw the radio out. It wouldn't bother me a bit."

"Makes no difference whatsoever. All you hear is junk and commercials and murder mystery."

3 to 1 For Radio!

But the radio enthusiasts among farmers vastly outnumber the gripers. It's radio three to one as they say in a certain radio commercial. Three out of every four rural radio owners attach a great deal of importance to their radios . . . and only one in eight wouldn't care if Junior took the thing apart and never got it together again.

It appears, from this survey, that radio performs a special service for rural people who may live some distance from town and amusements, or even from the nearest neighbor, and who may often be without access to daily newspapers or telephones.

Rural people have four very definite reasons to explain why radio is important to them: 1, it's a source of news; 2. a source of information, other than news; 3. it provides entertainment; and 4. it's become a habit to listen to the darn

Their comments are illustrative: "We would feel terribly isolated without the news." "Wouldn't know how the oc-

cupation in Germany is coming. I have a son over there, and I want to know what's happen-"You get the news quicker on

the radio.' "I don't have much time to

read the papers or magazines." Commentators, it appears, are the apple of the farmer's eve. Farm audiences are proved by this survey to be faithful to and enthusiastic about news broadcasts and news broadcasters. As we mentioned earlier, the radio announcement, "We now bring you the news" makes farmers sit up and take no-Rural radio listeners rate news tops as their favorite program. and also say it's the type of program they'd miss most.

Next comes religious music. Rural listeners, especially in the South, could use more of it, and more radio sermons, too. The reason may be that religious broadcasts provide a substitute for at- specific discrepancies between what tending church for some inconveni- the rural listener wants and needs | motion of the health, safety and ently located farmers.



Old-time musical programs are the farmer's favorite kind radio entertainment. He eschews "long-hair" music. . . . opera and classical, saying frankly in many cases that he doesn't understand it. And he turns thumbs down on swingand-sway dance music, and the current juke box favorites. In the South where this dislike of dance music is most pronounced, it doesn't matter

any day of the week. The weather once again proves its durability as a conversational topic -even on the radio. Naturally, weather reports are "must" listening on the farm.

whether the person questioned

is a portly Kentucky colonel, or

They'll take the old-time tunes

teen - age southern belle.

relativity, but the farmer says he Rural people are convinced radio finds them a definite and practical ner, advisory capacity, in the farm- TO THE MAYOR AND

For Improvement

Having read this far in the survey, radio executives might be inwork. They've "sold" the farm- and alcoholic limors other they've got to offer, doesn't he? to May 1, 1947. Seems to them the farmer has given radio an A-plus, or in radio par- In most cases the applicant is ere always are. And the dissent- lance, "a Fibber McGee Hooper rat- already a license. In such cas

We-ell, not exactly. There are some radio programs some farmfor some of the so-called "soap operas." which city folk seem to

There is no other type of program as the serial program or soap opera. While one-fourth of the rural listeners say they dislike serials, calling them "foolish" or "silly," many of these same people (particularly the women listeners) say enjoy or aren't entertained by these programs, they've become used to listening to one or another, and they feel they just have to find out what's going to happen next.

It's interesting to note, too, that radio more for the specific informa- ducted. tion they get from it, and depend less on it for "company" . . . or to "keep from getting lonely." Also, the critical ones who turn up their noses at the serial story tend to be somewhat older and to have had more education than those who like

Most farmers shy away from the up-and-coming radio mystery meller-drammer. They dislike finding corpses in their own living rooms, so to speak, and being forced to sit through harrowing screams, creaking doors, hooting owls, and the spooky collection of sound effects which is apt to accompany microphonic mayhem. Some farmers. explaining why they dislike such programs, say it's because of moral, not morale, reasons.

As is usually the case, the survey revealed more likes and dislikes than suggestions. Not even the ones who don't care much for radio at all had any ideas on how to improve the programs. More than half the rural people who have radios cannot think of any type of program they'd like to hear more of are scattered over such a wide the people of this state the sounfield, it's hard to put a finger on any | dest and best possible method of one type of program which is being neglected. In other words, there

BARBS . . . by Baukhage

Is Germany really changing | The plight of many Americans heart? I don't know but I know today is that they can't get a car they have had to change one thing, for their spare parts. their daily beer. There is no beer for Germans today.

it costs as much to raise a child and The administration thinks this will these days.

Congress seems ready to send the homes-for-veterans bill to the The Twentieth Century Fund says | floor with no ceilings on the homes. him through college as it does | mean veterans may have roofs to a house-but children are stop precipitation, but not infla-

Sandall Writes Public Officials

Lincoln_Charles E. Sandall, in a letter to all Nebraska mayors and councilmen, urges careful scrutiny in beer retailer's past records in considering their applications for license renewals. As state director of the Nebraska Committee, United States Brewers Foundation, Mr. Sandall heads the brewing industry's self reguation program in the state.

The license year begins May 1 and most hearings and other council actions occur during the month of March. Mr. Sandall's etter ti local officials is one ur ging strict adherence to the prorisions of the Nebraska Liquor ontrol Act. He calls attention to hat section of the law defining a license as a 'privilege, not a property right' and interprets it o mean that no applicant has a right to demanu a license. You are sole judge as to whether or not an applicant is worthy".

Mr. Sandall suggests that in measuring the fitne ss of the applicant, two questions that might be asked are these: "Has the retailer operated his place of busines, within the law and rules of good conduct? Has he been cooprative and has he recognized his responsibilities to the community in which he lives and conducts

Commenting on his letter, and particularly on the two questions, Mr. Sandall said, "A denial of licenses to alla pplicants who are It's the same way with farm unable to measure up affirmative talks and market reports. Com- ely to both questions would serve people, and why; and what pro- modity reports are about as fasci- the best interests of those chiefly nating to city folk as a lecture on concerned—first, the public; second, the great majority of beer is here to stay. When asked if he help in selling his products. In this would miss his radio set, should respect—by giving him weather re- selves willing and able to operate

MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCILS

You will soon again have the duty and responsibility of passclined to par themselves on the back ing upon the applications for the and figure they've done a good day's licenses for the retailing of been er, haven't they? He likes what beer for the period May 1, 1946

ers don't like, and serial stories are cord of the applicant. Has he farmers (AND their wives) express rules of good conduct? Has he cooperative and has he recognized his social responsibilities to toward which there is such divided the community in which he lives feeling among rural radio owners and conducts his business? Remember that you, the licensing authorities, are the sole judges as to whether or not the applicant is worthy of your continued confidence and respect. No applicant, they'd miss the hero and his matri- whether he be a present of a new monial mishaps or the heroine and applicant, has a right to demand her troubles. It seems that although, a license, for a license is a priin many instances, the listeners don't vilege and not a property right. May I call attention to some of the salient features of the Ne-

braska Liquor Control Act: 1. No license shall be issued to a non resident of the community the people who dislike serials value where the business is to be con-

> 2. No license shall be issued to one who is not of good character and reputation in the community in which he resides or to one who shall have been convicted or plead guilty to the violation of certain designated laws

3. Before local licensing authorities shall recommend to the Liquor Control Commission the ismoral character and financial responsibility of the applicant, the appropriatness of the location. taking into consideration the number of beer licenses already issued, and generally as to the applicant's fitness for the trust

I am sure that a strict adherence to the foregoing and many other provisions of the Liquor Control Act and a strict enforcethan the ones they listen to . . . and | ment of its provisions after the when suggestions are offered, they issuance of licenses will give to handling the manufacture, disdon't seem to be any important tribution and sale of alcoholic beverages and will aid in the prowelfare of the citizens of this

> To this end the Nebraska Committee stands pledged to render support and assistance. Very sincerely yours, Signed-Charles E. Sandall

State Director Phone us your

JA-3215



RUBBER MAGNATE RECEIVES USO AWARD

ceiving an award for distingui- presentation-

New York-Harvey S. Firestone | shed service to the nation through Jr., (left), a tire company execu- United Service Organization. Dr. tive in Akron and Ohio State Lindsley F. Kimball (right), Chairman for USO is shown re- President of the USO, made the

DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST SPANISH GOVERNMENT



should depend upon the past re- monstrations against the Spanish sing order became effective mid- cases following it are also pregovernment—this French delega- nite last Thursday. The quaran cedents of past generations. Toone of them. It is surprising what operated his place of business tion is shown parading through tine agaisst Spain was decided day, commerce is vas-y increaa hearty dislike 25 per cent of the within the law and within the Paris streets with banners of sa- after the ministers failed to agree sed. It has far greater need than lute to the Spanish Republicans. on a diplomatic break A majority ever before for freedom from obbeen cooperative and has he been Last week an angry French gov- favored the course but foreign stacles bred of provincialism. ernment invoked economic sanc- Minister Bidault urged that Fra- Moreover, Hall vs. DeCuir was tions against Generalissimo Fran- nce again try to obtain American decided when the Civil War and ARTHUR BARNES co by ordering closure of the 260 and British action.

Paris, France, Sounphoto-De-mile frontier with Spain. The clo-

ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON FOR FOOD TALKS



Washington, D. C .- Sounapaoto airport from Florida where he in Called to Washington by Prest terrupted a fishing trip to fly Truman for a world food confer- here. He was met at the plane by ence, former President Herbert Julius Klein, his former secretary Hoover (center) is shown as he (left) and Washington newsmen suance of a license, they shall arrived at Washington National (right). satisfy themselves and shall cer-



SUCCEEDS HAROLD ICKES

New York, NY, Soundphoto-38 yr. old former War Production by President Truman as the new Secretary of the Interior, is shown at the telephone in his Waldorf-Astoria suite after learning of his appointment to the President's Cabinet. Krug succeeds Harold Social, Local News L. Ickes, who recently resigned.



HONORED BY DAV

New York City-Wow V. Walk-Julius A. Krug, of Madison, Wis., presents citation to Perry Como, Omaha 23 years and was a member Board Chairman, who was named forts in behalf of disabled veter-

Phone Us Your

JIM CROW TRAVEL CASE TO BE ARGUED MAR. 6-7 (Continued from p. 1)

March 7, according to the movement of the calendar.

The case arose from the arrest of Miss Morgan on July 16, 1944 on a Greyhound bus traveling from Gloucester County, Va., to Baltimore, Md She was ordered to move to the rear of the bus and refused to do so. She lost in Virginia courts but NAACP lawyers finally secured the consent of the US supreme court to review by direct appeal.

In brief, the argument of Attorneys William H. Hastie, Leon A. Ransom, Spottswood W. Robinson, III, and Thurgood Marsh-

"For 70 years the decisions and pronouncements oft his Court have consistently condemned the state statutes attempting to control or rekuire the segregation of Negro passengers moving in interstate commerce on public carriers as unconstitutional invasions of an area where national power! under the commerce clause is exclusive. Unless the reasoning of thos cases or is unsound, they should be followed.

"The nature of the subject matter, the direct impact of segregation statutes on the intrestate movemnt of persons in commerce and the burdensome movement of persons in conflicting local enactments in this field all indicate the correctness of the doctrine which places this aspect of interstate commerce beyond state control. The transitory status of the interstate passenger and the lack of any uniform or consistent coverage of Negro travelers in the segregation laws of the sevral states including Virginia, show the unsubstantial character of the state's claim of legitimate concern with this matter. Such capricious application of provincial notions beyond substantial local needs affords no valid basis for the regulation of interstate commerce which Virginia is at-

In conclusion the brief refers brothers, James Rock Springs to the case of Hall Vs. DeCuir Wyo., Joseph, St. Joseph, Mo., John and Earl, of Omsha

the racial antagonisms attendant to it were fresh in the minds and, street, who died Friday, March 1 emotions of men. Even then this court was quite sure that the na- Thursday at 2 pm. from the Myers tion to the exclusion of the States must have control of this aspect of interstate travel. Today we are just emerging from a war in which all of the people of the US were united in a death struggle against the apostles of racism. We have already recognized by solemn subscription to the Charter of the United Nations, and particularly Articles one and 55 thereof, our duty, along with out neighbors, to eschew racism in our national life, and to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion. How much clearer, must it be today, than it was in 1877, that the national business of interstate commerce is not to be disfigured by disruptive local practices bred of racial notions alien to our national ideals, and to the solemn undertakings of the community of civilized na-

tions as well." This is the first instance which the US supreme court has been called upon to rule directly on the segrgation of interstate passengers on public carriers.

Deaths—Funerals

years, 3727 Ohio Street, died Thurs pital. She-is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kail Gilkie, two brothers, Mr. Earl Gilkie, Mr. William Gilkie two aunts Mrs. Lucindia Davis, Mrs. Eva Smith all of Omaha, uncle Rev. G. R. Wheeler, Toledo, Ohio, and other relatives. Funeral services were held Monday afternoon from The Thomas Mortuary with Rev. F. C. iWlliams, officiating. Burial was at Forest

MR. CALDWELL McKINNEY Mr. Caldwell McKinney age 65 er (right), national commander of years, 2312 North 28th avenue, died the Disabled American Veterans, Sunday March 3rd at a local hosradio singer. DAV commends of Zion Baptist Church. He is sur-Como for his entertainment ef vived by one daughter Mrs. Thelma Barry, Moorehead, Mississippi, son, Mr. Clifton McKinney, Omaha, stepson, Mr. Leroy Boykins, Saint Louis Missouri, & grand children Miss Martha June McKinney, Omaha, Clarence Barry, Chicago, Ill., Annette and Cora Ann Barry, William Cooper Jr., of Moorehead, Mississippi. Funeral services were held Friday afternoon from Zion



Margaret Neel of Searcy, Ark., the Red Cross hospital worker whose likeness appears on the official poster of the 1946 American Red Cross Fund Campaign, will be in Omaha, Thursday, March 14,, it has been announced by Ford Bates, general chairman of the fund drive.

Miss Neel will be honored at a special luncheon to be held at 12:15 at the Fontenelle Hotel on that date. All members of the Red Cross are invited to attenc. Tickets and reservations can be obtained by calling the Campaign headquarters at 414 So. 17th St., AT-2723. Reservations have been limited to 175, first come, first served.

The picture appearing on the 1946 Campaign poster, and shown above, was taken in New Caledonia.

Williams officiating. Burial was misunderstanding among groups at Forest Lawn Cemetery.

ARTHUR DIGGS

Funeral services for Amos T. Phomas, 65, of 2211 Miami who died day at the Myers Funeral Home in was at St. Joseph, Mo. Survivors:

hospital were held Friday at 2:30

pm at the Myers Funeral Home

Barnes 47 of 4813 1-2 South 26th Lester B. Granger, at a local hospital were held Funeral Home, Burial at Grace. land Park Cemetery.

COPY O LETTER TO THE AMERICAN AIRLINES SYSTEM

Mr. Ralph S. Damon, President American Airlines System 100 E. 42nd Street New York City

My Dear Mr. Damon:

The National Urban League, an organization to equal economic opportunity for our Negro population, deeply resents the printed announcement of the opening of town American Airlines Ticket

messenger in a fashion of ideas. your prospective customers are apt to consider this portrayal of the Negro worker as typical of the estimate which the American Lumber Co. Airlines System places upon the qualifications of the Negro wor-

It has been a long time since any important busines, or industry has had the effontery to portray Negroes in this manner. Coming at a time when intelligent American leadership is doing its

Baptist Church with Rev. F. C. best to eliminate disharmosy and of American citizens, your company's advertisement is particularly unintelligent, and tragic.

Negro veterans of the recent Sunday, March 3, were held Thurs- | war who gained experience in the Army Air Forces are now charge of the Elks Lodge. Burial looking to the air lises systems for piloting and technical jobs for which their Army learned skills have qualified them. Your company's caricature places an additional burden on this group, Funeral services for Arthur and handicaps the efforts of such Diggs, who died Friday at a local organizations as the National Urban League.

For these reasons we have the etery. Survivors Sister Mrs. Anna right to demand, and do demand Simm, and brother Homer, both of that your folder of announcement be withdrawn in the interets of American decency. Sincerely yours.

Exelutive Secretary

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Larry Flinn Manager.

The folder cartoonizes a Negro

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