

NBC Chimes

FEBRUARY - MARCH 1951



MR. JAMES DURANTE PLAYS CYRANO
(See Page Four)

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THE LITTLE THINGS

If Aesop the Slave didn't have a fable about the importance to the success of a large project of securing the perfection of all its little components, he should have. It's something which can't be over-emphasized.

There doesn't seem to be much connection between addressing interoffice envelopes correctly and NBC's being able to continue to produce the biggest and best shows in broadcasting, but there is a very definite relationship. If we, the employees of NBC, can't do our ordinary everyday tasks of "housekeeping" well, then sooner or later it will affect our ability to the big things well.

Fortunately, most of us are pretty conscientious about performing those little jobs that help NBC save time and save money. Imagine what it would be like if everyone suddenly stopped writing the room number on interoffice envelopes, or just called the operator for an inside extension rather than looking it up and dialing it himself. Our internal communication system shortly could become so fouled up that it would be well-nigh useless. And here at NBC, with our offices and studios scattered throughout the city, that would be pretty disastrous.

If you don't do those little things, such as locking your desk and files, turning off the lights and shutting the windows when closing the office, someone else will have to do it, and you can see that if such individual carelessness were to continue and become universal, then that someone else will get an unbearable overload of work.

It's not easy to drive home the idea of cost and waste consciousness, since what each individual can save (or waste) seems rather small. But when you think that if each NBC employee were to conserve ten cents worth of, say, stationery, each week, in a year's time over \$16,000 would be realized, it starts to take on considerable importance.

We don't have to be time and motion engineers to find little things in our individual operations that can be corrected and adjusted so that efficiency will be increased and waste cut down. Usually it just means reviewing what we do from an objective standpoint.

We are the network of the biggest shows and the biggest stars. Let's help insure our ability to boast of our bigness by not forgetting the little things.

CIVIL DEFENSE IS YOUR BUSINESS

As you know, NBC, as well as Rockefeller Center and the federal, state and city governments, have established civil defense programs. Here in the company, air raid wardens are being designated, routes to safe areas are being selected and marked, necessary equipment is being ordered, and all employees have been canvassed to find those with training that would make them valuable in time of emergency. In addition, instructive films have been shown to many employees and a full-scale program of civil defense education is being planned for all employees. In following issues of Chimes you will be given detailed information on all facets of NBC's civil defense program.

Ultimately, however, the NBC Civil Defense Committee can do nothing without the help of all employees. Reams of instructions can be distributed and tons of equipment acquired with no salutary effects unless all of us realize that civil defense is our own individual responsibility. Living up to our responsibilities might mean offering whatever skills we have in the capacity of a volunteer worker, or it might just mean making it your business to learn and to follow instructions.

IN SERVICE

Here is the list of NBC employees who have been called into service since the last issue of Chimes. This brings to 65 the number of NBC New York employees who have gone in since the outbreak of the war in Korea.

Rudolph Kuehn, Development Engineering
Frank Spalding, Television Sales Trainee
William Leary, General Service
Robert Quinn, TV Production Services
Alfred Scott, TV Program
Hal Keith, TV Program
Roy Bartels, Traffic
John Piorek, Development Engineering
Carmen Corsi, National Administration Engineering
Robert Smith, General Service
Thomas Leonard, General Service
Richard Pease, Guest Relations
John Russell, Guest Relations
John Butler, Radio Network Sales
Michael Locascio, TV Film
John Christophel, TV Film
George Murray, TV Newsreel

Incidentally, if you know the address of any of our men in service, please send it to Chimes, Room 705, so we may put them on our mailing list.

NEWS ABOUT THE NETWORK

The prodigious proboscis on the cover belongs partly to the NBC make-up department and partly to Mr. James Durante, who made theatrical history Wednesday, February 21, with his portrayal of the title role of Edmund Rostand's "Cyrano de Bergerac" on the "Four Star Revue."

In spite of considerable natural advantages, this was the first time Jimmy had ever played the famous long-nosed swashbuckler -- the only character in fact or fiction who seriously challenged him.

Benjamin L. Webster, a veteran of 25 years in the theatrical and industrial design fields, has been appointed assistant to Fred Shawn, NBC Television's Director of Production Services.

Seventeen hundred New Englanders - brought to New York in two New Haven Railroad Show Trains -- were special guests in our Center Theater February 18 for "The Big Show", NBC's Sunday evening radio extravaganza. One train originated from Boston and the other in Hartford, and the entire Center Theatre was reserved for the passengers. As Fred Allen said, "The only way I got on the show was to fly to Boston and ride the Show Train down. No other way to get into the theatre." Incidentally, a survey by NBC's Plans and Research Department showed a very great number of the passengers to be television set owners.

John Cameron Swayze, of NBC Television's "Camel News Caravan," "Who Said That" and "Watch the World" has completed a full cycle: from reporter to radio newscaster to television personality and, finally, a newspaper writer again. This month he began a column for the McNaught Syndicate.



Groucho Marx, award-winning emcee of NBC's AM-TV comedy quiz, "You Bet Your Life," this month carried off the honors of another poll. The inmates of San Quentin prison almost unanimously voted the acid-tongued Groucho as their "most enjoyable entertainer." According to Groucho, "if my brother Harpo was where he belonged" he would have had 1574 rather than 1573 votes out of the possible 1639.

Donations Go to Both Armed Forces, Our Blood Bank

A mobile unit of the Red Cross Blood Bank was set up in the lower lounge of the Center Theatre on Thursday, February 15, to receive the blood donations of NBC and ABC employees. It was the greatest group contribution of our employees in the present history of our Blood Bank, with a total of 113 pints contributed. Half of the total will go to the Armed Forces in Korea and the other half will go to our own Blood Bank. Following are the names of our people who gave blood at that time:

Doris Phillips, Charles Bergh, Margaret Delaney, Helen Rachel, Vicki Galvin, William Ryan, Herbert Schumm, Paul Scheier, Lorin Myers, Barbara Gehrke, Arthur Hamilton, Stockton Helffrich, Robert de Beer, Mary James, Russ Strebel, Ted Biro, Arax Kazanjian, Harry Lloyd, Donald O'Brien, Nicholas Ponella, Bernard Meyer, Donald Gogarty, Joseph Costello, Loftus McDonough, Margery Wilcox, John Shute, Walter Giebelhaus, Einar Peterson, Herbert Hobler, Alice Kennell, Jack Fuller, Keith Calkins, Patricia Guinan, Alan Ewald, Don Durgin, Marilyn Bradshaw, David Bellin, Cindy Ash, Marjorie Trinka, Eugene Kenefick, Frank Zoeller, James Connor, John Steeves, Mildred Cucciniello, Arthur Cooper, John Talley, Nancy Weyl, Darlette Lietzmann, Jacqueline Weiss, Joseph Ferrera, Joan McMahon, William Wood, Frances Delloso, Austen Smithers, George McKeon, Jean Horan, Fred Sieper, Stanley Zabka, Grant Tinker, Patricia Denham, John Gregory, Jean Bissell, Ronald McNamer, Inge Witschas, Robert Hultgren, George Lenfest, John Porter, Robert Bullock, Sam Kirshmann, William Quinn, Richard Manley, Cynthia Pigot, Grace Richardson, Mary McBride, Nick Cirabisi, Katherine Tucker, Sam Novenstern, Sally Pearson, Janet Williams, Anna Muller, Lew Brenner, Jane Smith, M.M. Elwell, Doris Williams, Gloria Bizzigotti, Jane Costello, Edwin Vane, Jane Kenney, Eva Boudreau, Adelaide Schubert, Jack Kiermaier, Betty Ann Fee, Paul Mayer, Catherine Dindia, Dick Hollands, Nancy Ewels, Margaret Conroy, Neil McGuinness, Rosemary Pfaff, Lorraine McCue, Thomas Dater, Jerome Duffy, Robert Keowen, James Schlag, Louise Cobb, Agnew Horine, Ruth Preston, Ray Dillon, E.E. Oesterling, Richard Lerner, Carl Ostlund, John Dowd.

DIES IRAE

As if you didn't know it, March 15 is the last day on which you can file your Federal income tax returns, and by April 15 you must submit your New York State tax returns.

Remember that both residents and non-residents of New York State must file a return, if they work in the state. A goodly supply of all the necessary forms is available in Employee Services, Room 705.



It happens at NBC

EXECUTIVE -- Legal: Our heartiest congratulations to DON CLANCY, on his newly acquired LL.B. and the best of luck as he joins the legal staff of ABC.

PUBLIC RELATIONS -- Press: We're sorry this month to lose MIKE DANN to TV Sales. BILL LAUTEN is taking his place as Trade News Editor. MARY RUIZ LYNCH, our Charleston champ, was last week's women's bowling champ with a score of 227. A belated but wholehearted welcome to CONNIE COLLINS, JACK TRACY's new assistant. We have it from JOE SHEEHAN and BILL ECCLES that in regard to requests from our photo files, Toscanini is running a close second to Dagmar.

Information: Three of our people, ROSEMARY PFAFF, PAT DENHAM and ALICE KENNEL, gave blood the other day. Miss BARNARD has returned from a leave of absence.

Continuity Acceptance: We are all plastered down here, with all the construction going on about us.

Radio News, Special Events and Public Affairs: The Voices and Events staff -- JAMES FLEMING, BURROUGHS PRINCE and JACK GERBER -- have taken up new quarters in the old news conference room, with MARJORIE KOBRE being named as secretary to the staff. ELLEN LEE has taken over at the Newsroom switchboard.

STATION RELATIONS -- Radio: May 5th is the date VIV CARROLL and DICK REIDY have set for their wedding. PAUL HANCOCK visited some of our Michigan affiliates. He tells us it was 17 below -- and no earmuffs.

Television: LILY BORST has left us for TV Network Sales. Welcome to DORIS WILHELM, who just recently joined our department

Traffic: Trafficites were happy to receive their first letter from ROY BARTELS, who is getting his pre-basic training classification at Fort Devins, Mass. Roy says getting up at 5:00 a.m. doesn't seem to agree with him. NANCY KYLE QUINN proved to a few Traffic gals that a new bride really can cook -- all the girls say her dinner was delectable and a good time was had by all. Welcome to JOHN UDRY, our latest addition.

RADIO NETWORK -- Program: The best of luck to JUDY MARSHALL, who has left us to join Television Network Sales.

Sales: Welcome to JOAN MOONEY, a newcomer to NBC, as Miss Whyte's secretary and to NANCY HERBERT, who is now Sackett Miles's secretary.

Advertising and Promotion: Our man, NORMAN GLENN, is now tagged supervisor of Radio Sales Promotion. Redheaded LORETTA LEEHIVE caused quite a commotion when she made a grand entrance with her hair swept back into a chignon. Another sensation was caused by a transient turtle who was visiting JOAN HAYES -- it seemed that Henry J disappeared when she was out to lunch. He was found sleeping under her waste paper basket. You'd think LENNIE GIARRAPUTO was going to feed the whole department -- what with all the victuals he carts to 416 -- but no! The four mammoth sandwiches (with olives), apple pear, orange, banana, two quarts of milk and two candy bars are devoured at lunch by his truly.

Sales Planning and Research: We are sorry to hear that SUSANNE ROEHR had an emergency operation for appendicitis recently.

Technical Operations: A young redhead named Timothy was born to the JIM HACKETTS this month.

Controllers: Expansion of our department has brought in as new employees to NBC STEVE WOZNIAK and six glamour girls -- EVELYN BERENSON, VICTORIA CASELLA, MARGARET HERRHOLZ, JOAN LEHMANN, GRACE MANDRACCHIA and MARIE SEMPREBENE. Transferred from Central Accounting were KAY ERICSSON, VIRGINIA BODE, HELEN WALKER and bowling stars VIN CAREY and JOE MULLEN. Almost everybody dropped in on the AA "get-together" Feb. 16 for a gay time. It was JEAN CARONNA's last NBC event, for she has left to work elsewhere. LOU NEWMAN, Revenue Supervisor and departmental air raid warden, tried to drum up support for a co-ed bowling team. Latest promotions here are: CURT LEWIS to Assistant Controller; AL WEIDENMULLER to General Accountant; JOHN DeMAIO to Disbursement Supervisor; LOU NEWMAN to Revenue Supervisor; GRACE SNIFFIN to Cost Accountant, and MARION STEPHENSON to General Ledger Accountant.

TELEVISION NETWORK -- Program: CARL LINDEMANN, who is now Commercial Coordinator on Kate Smith Show, is engaged to CISSIE WILLIAMS, who is Script Girl on the Jack Carter Show. They plan to get married April 8.

Sales: We're very happy to greet LaVONNE SCHUTZ to Sales Service as a replacement for DODDY VANDENBOSCH. Lots of luck to Doddy, who has gone over to the Hudson Theater as assistant to the associate producer on the Kate Smith Show. Cupid took us all by surprise when JACK WEIR of Sales Service and JANE ALLERDING, our receptionist, announced their engagement. The date is set for sometime in June. Belated hellos to the new gals in the department: PHYLLIS CHRISTIANSON, LILLIAN DONALDSON and MARY MORRISON. Also a late welcome to HALLIE ROBITAILLE, secretary to HAMILTON ROBINSON.

Advertising and Promotion: Welcome to our new department member, JOANNE SORGE, who has joined us as a secretary.

Sales Planning and Research: The newest member of the department is LEWIS MARCY, who replaces LANCE BALLOU.

Broadcast Operations: DOUG SKENE of Broadcast Film left for the Army February 9. Welcome to our two new broadcast coordinators, EDWARD ROTH and ROBERT WHITE.

Controllers: The welcome mat is out for several new members -- EILEEN MONAHAN has joined the budget group; ANNE SULLIVAN, the general and cost accounting section, and GRACE REEBER and MARILYN HAAS, accounts payable. We also say welcome to several transfers -- from central Controllers we have gained EVELYN WULFF and CAL WHEELER; from Film Operations, HARRISON WEED; all who are now with "Payable", and JIM REINA from O&O to general and cost accounting. We lost PHYLLIS WIENER to domestic life, and JOHN CURRAN, who has left to enter another field of work.

Staging Services: Biggest news from Staging Services is that a good share of our people have been out with the flu.

Technical Operations: Congratulations to our new Technical Directors, LARRY LOCKWOOD, TAMBY TAMBURRI and JOHN ROGERS, and to our new Video Control Engineers, LEON DOBBIN, FRANK DeRIENZO and JACK DURKIN. FRED FAVANT is the proud father of little Susan Elizabeth, born January 16.

News and Special Events: FRANCIS MCCALL finally recuperated from a broken ankle suffered a few days before Christmas. GERALD POLIKOFF vacationing in Florida with a stopover in Cuba. DAVE BASHKOW just back from his honeymoon. CORALEE CHAPPELLE left us this weekend -- moved over to that place on Madison Avenue. AD SCHNEIDER broke what may be a new kind of record. Joined the girls for an afternoon coke the other day but couldn't remember whether it was the first one in five years or the first one since the political conventions in Philadelphia in 1940. GERALD GREEN had his first book, "His Majesty O'Keefe," published, and if that weren't enough, Burt Lancaster has bought the rights to make it a movie. ROBERT ALEXANDRE, Producer of Pathe Journal Newsreel in France, visited our 106th St. studios in his study of American newsreel coverage and unexpectedly met some old friends he had known in Paris -- JESSE SABIN, LUDOVIC GEISKOP and SANTINO SOZIO, which considerably facilitated French translations.

OWNED AND OPERATED STATIONS -- WNBC-WNBT: Congratulations to TED COTT, our station manager, who received a radio-television citation from the National Council of Christians and Jews. Mr. Cott is one of the few individuals ever to receive this award, which usually is presented to organizations. ELSIE CIOTTI still raving about the recent NBC-AA dance at the Hotel Dorset. Welcome to STEVE WHITE, who has replaced WALTER LAW on our production staff. Walter is now with network TV.

Spot Sales: Best wishes to MARION SHEEHAN, TV Traffic Clerk, who was married on January 27 in Brooklyn to Bob Maleski. The latest Spot Sales gal to sport a brand new diamond ring is RUTH LOZIER, AM Sales secretary. Welcome to GEORGE DIETRICH, AM salesman, and AUDREY RENGSTORFF, AM Sales secretary.

ADMINISTRATION -- General Service: JACK McLAUGHLIN, AL HUMBERT's assistant, became the father of a baby girl the day after Christmas. Congratulations also are extended to GEORGE McLEOD, who was married January 27.

Stenographic: Welcome to our new department member, BERNA WALPER. The following girls from Steno gave blood the other day: MILDRED CUCCINIELLO, INGE WITSCHAS, JACKIE WEISS, MARGE TRINKA, FRANCES DELLOSA and DARLETTE LIETZMAN.

Duplicating: The best of luck to two members of our department who have been called into service, BILL LEARY and TOM LEONARD. JIM HIRSCH has been promoted to Engineering. Welcome to newcomer RONALD GOIGEL.

Mailroom: As quite a few of you have noticed already, the Mailroom has taken on considerable added glamour. During the past few weeks we have added eight lovely young ladies to our staff. Our entire "male" room welcomes MARIE ANDERSON, DIANE LA PERCH, AUDREY BUCHANAN, ANN DEBUS, JANE WHITE, ELOYSE GELFER, JOAN FRIEDEL and CARMAN LAMPE. RAY DILLON, former boss of the inter-office messengers, has moved on to TV Sales -- but not to avoid the girls, he assured us. We also lost JERRY DOYLE to AM Sales, BILL MOORE to TV Controllers and our best wishes go to all of them. Mr. KELLY lost his right hand girl when DORIS WILHELM moved to TV Station Relations. Dot will be missed by all of us, and we want to wish her the best of luck in her new job. She will be replaced by Diane La Perch.

Set-Up: JOE KALL slipped and broke his foot while figure skating. MIKE AMAROTICO's son was married this month. GEORGE DOBBS has been called into the Army for the second time.



Jim Wood's group gathered around to bid goodbye to June Walter (center)

Sound Effects: CHET HILL has been made a special policeman for Civil Defense in Montvale, N.J. FRANK LOUGHRAN is currently vacationing at Riviera Beach in Florida.

Engineering Development: The very best of luck to RUDY KUEHN, who left for the Air Force January 31.

Engineering Technical Services: MAX VOIDT joined our Model Shop February 1 as a mechanic. Welcome also to FERN SPIELER, who has come to us as a typist-clerk, and to PEGGY KEELEY, who has taken over as JIM WOOD's secretary, replacing JUNE WALTER, who is leaving us (see photo left).

Audio Video Engineering: Welcome to JOHN SHEA, who has joined Audio Video as a clerk.

Radio and Allocations Engineering: CATHY DINDIA, a newcomer to NBC, has taken LILLIAN HOYER's place as Mr. Duttera's secretary. MARTIN MEANEY has left Radio and Allocation to re-enter the Marines. He's a first lieutenant. (see photo right).

Air Conditioning: JOHN GREGORY has been operated on for appendicitis. Last report is that he's coming along fine. JAKE CLUE of the Hudson also is recovering from an operation. He is due to be back with us soon. JOHN MANNION also on the sick list. JOE FERRERA has announced the arrival of a son, and we hear that ANDREW LOWRY soon will be warming bottles. FINN shocked us all recently -- he was seen walking fast, something he hasn't done in years. BOB FYFFE's wife will visit old friends and relations in Scotland this summer. HAROLD McCONAGHY at the Center finally shot the deer he was aiming at and it would have been a prize-winner if he had entered it. If JOHNNY MORRISEY and his gang of men should suddenly leave the Air Conditioning plant it would take the 10th Floor men a month to readjust themselves and get used to the emptiness they would leave behind -- a grand bunch of guys. LLOYD TRAFFORD having trouble with his one and only. He should know by now you can't win with a gal. ALEX CHESNUTT at 108th St. must be going around with BOB HOLRITZ -- they're both doing plumbing now.

Guest Relations: STAN ZABKA and SANDY SHELTON assisting Dee Engelbach on "The Big Show." New faces -- Guides: JOAN KINGSBURY and JEANINE DYKSTRA; Pages: JOHN KRAGH, BOB BLANKFORT, JIM HAINES, JIM CASE, ED WOINA, JIM COOPER and RAY HAGEN. EMB BENITZ is now in Tickets as well as GENE KENEFICK, JOHN PLAIN now with TV Film. TOM VARNUM and JIM GREENWAY are our new Cashiers. Good luck to PERRY REASE and JACK STOLL who have left us for the service.

Treasurers: ROY SHEPARD left for the Army February 16. He has been replaced by KATHLEEN HUGHES. Much belated congratulations are extended to JENNIE BOCCONE, who was married to Lt. Victor D'Amico of the U.S. Navy. Jennie has been making frequent weekend trips to Virginia, where he is now stationed.

Purchasing: JEAN LEE has left us and has been replaced by RUTH LAVIN, who in turn has been replaced by BARBARA PRICE, a newcomer to NBC.



Martin Meaney has been called back in to the Marines. He's shown here with the radio he received when he left.

Controllers: Welcome to the newcomers to our department, CECILIA McQUADE and PHILIP CROUCH. BETTS FITTS and KAY DEEB went on a ski trip in Massachusetts recently.

Personnel: Hail, GLORIA GARDNER and HOPE TRAVIS, and welcome to our Records Section. Hear tell ELEANOR NADEJE is planning a West Indies vacation. JOHN STEEVES gave a vocational talk at the New Jersey College for Women the other afternoon.

Music Library: HAROLD VENHO has announced his engagement -- with plans for a wedding during the summer vacation. The Westchesterites, JANE ROANE, DOTTIE METCALF and MAGGIE SNIDER overcame the obstacles of the railroad strike by resorting to car rides. For Mr. BELVISO it was the subway. MIMI KILGORE and her husband at last celebrated that long-awaited skiing weekend. AVA PORTER is joyous over the arrival of a second nephew, born in Georgia.

MAIL ROOM BALLAD

This little poem is dedicated to the unsung heroes of the Mail-Messenger service, with a special memorial to the three boys lost in line of duty: one fighting his way through a guided tour on the fourth floor; the second who spent so much time in the maze around Master Control that he became an engineer, and the third, who was last seen headed for the 53rd floor in a local elevator.

*From behind the bloomin' wire to the room across the hall
It's the ever slavin' mailboy who is always on the ball.*

*When he's stompin' round the buildin' a'learnin' every floor
He wished to God they'd put the names up plainly on the door.*

*But now the crusty salt he speaks, bloody veteran of two whole weeks,
Things ain't like they used to be, with DR-TV and PDD.*

*Yesterday a man's in 409; today it's 266.
Tomorrow he's gone to somewhere else and the mailboy's in a fix.*

*They haven't made the first change yet in the big ole file
And when they do I'm tellin' you it'll take a little while,*

*For when they get him straightened out and everything seems fine
Our friend the mix-ed up address will be back in 409.*

*So please don't kick the mailboy if he gets in your way.
He's got to trod around the floors 16 whole times a day.*

*And girls at the reception desks -- please don't you get cross,
For the stumblin', mumblin' mailboy may someday be your boss.*

W.P. DANNHOUSER, Room 670

A.A. activities



This season's AA social schedule got off to a great start Friday, February 16, with an informal "get-together" at the Hotel Dorset. The clambake got underway about 5:30 and within a short time 218 AA members and guests had crowded into the room and up to the bars, out on the dance floor or around the tables. It was the unanimous opinion of the members that these informal get-togethers are just what the AA needs and that there should be more of them. And that's just what the AA Social Committee, which is headed up to Donna McClintock, intends to do.

The Dramatic Workshop

The past month has been the most progressive one in the history of the Workshop. An idea now under consideration calls for a script contest for AA members. Details are now being worked out. A lot of help in sound effects techniques is being given the members by Dick Gillaspie of Sound Effects. Another very important "behind the scenes" man is Ted Chisholm, whose engineering skill is really keeping the group functioning. The goal of writing, adapting and producing original scripts is being attained. Jerry Verbel recently directed a presentation of "The Wall," which was adapted from Jean Paul Sartre's original by Sam Kirshman. At present, Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" also is being done by the Workshop, under the direction of Ronnie Guzik and Jerry Doyle.

Bowling



Bowling

Latest reports show the top team in the NBC Bowling League to be the Gremlins, with 53 wins and 27 losses. They are followed by the Gadgeteers, with 51 and 29; Controllers, with 49 and 31; Studio Grips, with 48 and 32, and Audio Video, with 47 and 33. Vin Carey is still on top among the men with a 171 average, and Joan DeMott leads the women with 160.

Chorus

Chorus

The NBC Chorus has been reactivated. This activity held its first meeting on February 20 to draw up plans for the spring. As usual, the greatest need of the Chorus is for plenty of good male voices. If you are interested in joining, call Joyce Higbee, Ext. 116.