

The Villa Olivia
Radiophone Station W T A S
Near ELGIN, ILLINOIS

THIS CARD will admit bearer to visit the
Broadcasting Station.

CHARLES E. ERBSTEIN

ON THE AIR

Published at **ELGIN, ILLINOIS**



Olivia Frances Erbstein
WORLD'S YOUNGEST BROADCASTER

Volume 1

JUNE 25 · 1924

Number 4

*Those famous
Orchestras
Nightly*

BROADCASTING FROM

WTAS

“Willie
Tommy
Annie
Sammy”

USE EXCLUSIVELY
CONN INSTRUMENTS

Manufactured by

THE C. G. CONN COMPANY, LTD.
ELKHART, INDIANA

Chicago Representatives: THE CONN CHICAGO COMPANY, 62 East Van Buren St.

ON THE AIR

A M A G A Z I N E O F R A D I O

Published Monthly at Elgin, Illinois

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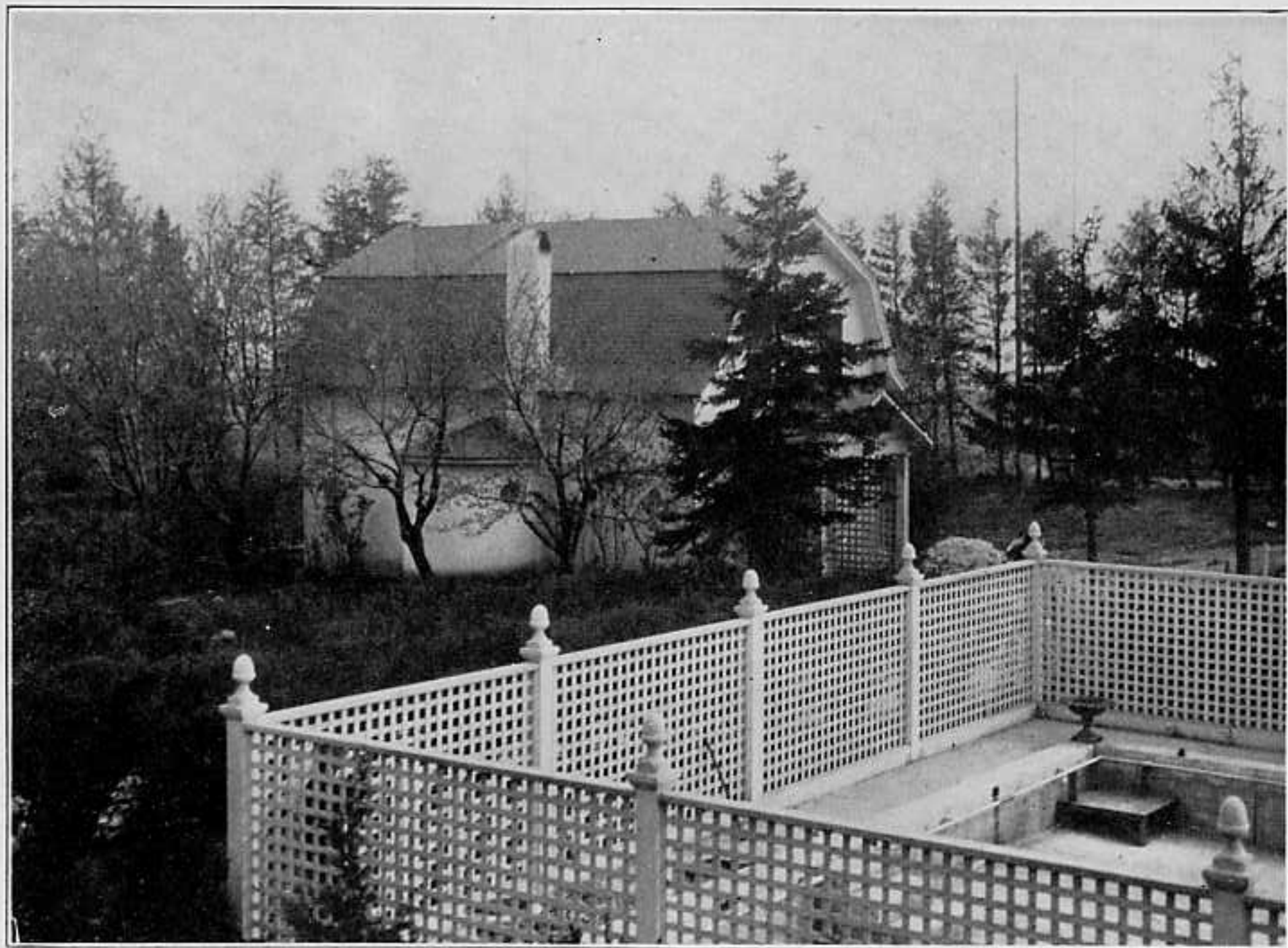
Villa Olivia, Beauty Spot of Illinois Home of WTAS

One of the beauty-spots of central Illinois is the Villa Olivia estate, four miles east of Elgin, on the main state road between Elgin and Chicago, owned by Charles E. Erbstein, Chicago attorney.

Thousands of people are visiting it weekly to inspect the world-famous "Willie Tommy Annie

Florida, California, Maine, New York, British Columbia, Oregon and Quebec, are represented in the enormous batch of mail received at the station daily. WTAS's programs of dance music and popular song-hits are favorites in hundreds of thousands of homes.

The Station itself is housed in a two story



VILLA OLIVIA STATION; POOL IN FOREGROUND

Sammy" Radio Station, known to every radio bug in the country as the home of the "Ha! Ha!" announcer.

The Villa Olivia Radiophone Broadcasting Station—to give WTAS its proper name—is situated a few yards from the Erbstein Villa, and is regarded as one of the most complete broadcasting units in the country. Barely two years old, it has a "family roster" of more than a million and is constantly adding to its membership.

Two Broadcasting Sets

Equipped with two complete broadcasting sets, operating on a 286 meter wave length, it has been heard in England, all parts of South and Central America and Honolulu during the past winter. Daily hundreds of letters and telegrams are received from practically every state in the union.

stucco building, built as nearly as possible to resemble a ship's cabin. Portholes furnish the light for the operating room on the first floor and along the wide oaken beams are hung ship's lights to give illumination at night. The illusion is further carried out by a ship's clock, which records the hours by bells.

Complete Business Office

To the right of the operating room is the business office of the Station where four Western Union wires are installed to take care of the telegrams received at the Station nightly. Ten telephones, local and long distance, are necessary to cope with the great number of telephone requests and comments. Adjoining the operating room on the east is a cabin housing the two largest generators built for broadcasting purposes—triple unit motor generators of 18,000 volts.

[Continued foot of next page]

Broadcasting Twenty Bands; Perfect Orchestral Program

Completion of plans whereby more than twenty dance orchestras will be broadcasted weekly through the Villa Olivia Radiophone Broadcasting Station near Elgin, is announced today by Charles E. Erbstein owner.

By arrangement with the C. G. Conn Company of Elkhart, Indiana, makers of world famous band instruments, the Elgin Station will broadcast exclusively orchestral music played on Conn instruments. The most famous dance orchestras in Chicago will be heard nightly from the "Willie Tommy Annie Sammy" radio unit.

This "hook-up" is regarded as one of the most important developments in the ever-broadening scope of radio in the past year. It involves the building of special sealed wires from more than twenty ball-rooms to the central broadcasting unit at Elgin, distances varying from between thirty and sixty miles, according to the location of the various rooms where the orchestras are playing. Special amplifiers and microphones will be used, and the entire installation of this gigantic circuit will be under the direction of Carl J. Meyers, Director, and Charles Udell, Asst. Engineer of the Villa Olivia Station.

The wires will lead directly to a great switch-board in the new operating rooms of the Elgin Station where Mr. Meyers will personally control the broadcasting of the different orchestras. By means of an intricate system of switches, plugs, and buzzers, he will be in direct touch at all times with every ballroom on his circuit and will be able to tune in each one at will. According to schedule, music from two or three ballrooms will be broadcasted nightly.

"This is a radical departure and a great improvement in broadcasting programs," said Mr. Erbstein, in discussing the new arrangement. "Heretofore we were able to offer our fans only

one orchestra—now there are twenty or more. People have their likes and dislikes in dance music, as in anything else. We will now be able to offer them the 'fifty-seven' varieties just as soon as the hook-up is completed.

"The dance programs will be interspersed, as in the past, with renditions of popular songs by well-known artists, special piano and organ numbers, and occasional short, very short talks. From our experience at Elgin we have found that the vast majority—practically 95 per cent—of the listeners-in, prefer peppy programs in preference to long talks about farm fertilization, market reports, classical numbers, and other features of similar ilk. We aim to give them what they want. We're all for satisfying the tired business man, the tired farmer, the tired stenographer, the tired laborer—in fact all who are tired after the day's work. They want pep."

The new arrangement will in no way interfere with the tremendously popular Monday night WTAS concerts at Kimball Hall, Chicago, according to Mr. Erbstein. Here, as in the past, the entire Willie Tommy Annie Sammy program will be broadcast from the stage and one of Chicago's famous orchestras will be in attendance. There are more than 700 seats in the Kimball Hall Studio and the public is invited to attend these "broadcasts," free of charge; since their inception last year, the "S. R. O." sign has been the rule.

Mr. Erbstein who has been in the east for the past three weeks, also said that the popular announcer of the Willie Tommy Annie Sammy family whose troubles with his "boss" are known to millions of fans throughout the country, has returned to his duties, and has received a slight increase in salary.

[Continued from page four]

The operating room proper contains the duplicate broadcasting sets which feature the installation of WTAS. Here sits the station operator and the announcer. Lines from different ball-rooms, the Kimball Hall, and Mr. Erbstein's Chicago office are plugged into an amplifier on the operating desk and the program is controlled by an elaborate installation of switches, plugs and buzzers, by means of which the operator can turn on the air any one of the various studios.

Beautiful Draped Studio

On the second floor of the cabin is the station studio, regarded as one of the most beautiful in the country. Draped in heavy blue velvet to eliminate noise, illuminated by beautiful standing lamps, it forms a perfect broadcasting studio for the artists who appear. The microphone rests on a marble pedestal close to the reproducing

grand piano, and besides the fifty chairs for the audience there is room for a twenty piece orchestra.

Adjoining the broadcasting cabin is Mr. Erbstein's magnificent swimming pool, and further to the west is the formal sunken garden. Beyond this is the private nine hole golf course laid out by one of the best known professionals in the country. Here Mr. Erbstein and his friends are able to play nine holes over one of the most interesting courses in the state.

A pergola, a stone's throw from the swimming pool, contains a loud speaker and private dances are held here during the summer months to music furnished by the best orchestras in Chicago.

Berlin.—Eilvese, a city near here, has a trans-oceanic transmitting station with an umbrella aerial 825 feet high and 3000 feet in diameter.

Elgin Talks to World in 1924

Extensive improvements now under way at the Villa Olivia Radiophone Station at Elgin, Illinois, will make it the most modern broadcasting unit in the world, according to Charles E. Erbstein, owner.

Two, 200 foot towers, the largest ever constructed for broadcasting purposes are being erected at the Station, which is located on the beautiful Erbstein estate, four miles east of Elgin. They will be completed by August first, and will be fifty feet higher than those of any other station. WTAS, the Villa Olivia code name is at present using a 92 foot mast, over which the longest recorded distance received is 4721 airmiles.

"With the completion of the towers and the installation of two triple unit motor generators to furnish the plate supply of the tubes, the efficiency of the WTAS station will be increased at least sixty percent," said Mr. Erbstein in describing the improvements. "Operating at maximum efficiency, it is impossible to prophesy accurately the range of the Station. We should, however, practically double the distance of the broadcast."

No larger generators have ever been made for a private broadcasting unit, according to Carl J. Meyers, director of WTAS. They will generate 18000 volts instead of 4000 volts, the present supply.

"The combination of the towers and generators will intensify reception, increase the volume, eliminate present 'dead' spots and overcome other obstacles which tend to deaden and destroy the wave impulses from WTAS," said Mr. Meyers. "Villa Olivia will then be one of the most powerful broadcasting plants in the world."

WTAS when the improvements are completed will be fully equipped with duplicate broadcasting sets, thus effectually eliminating all chances of breakdown. If one set fails to function for any reason, the other will be immediately available.

Johannesburg, Transvaal, Africa.—Grant Dalton, radio amateur of this city, picked up radio broadcasting from Europe and America on the same evening, March 14. This linking of three continents was secured when Dalton, using a three-tube set, picked up 2LO of London and WGY of Schenectady, N. Y. The latter reception was recorded at 4 A.M., thus showing that Dalton is a fan of the first water.

Boston.—When the pastor of the Community church in Hampden, Mass., had to attend an out-of-town meeting the other Sunday, he installed a receiver and loud speaker at the pulpit and let the pastor of one of Springfield's larger Congregational churches conduct the services.

New York.—An idea of how much money is being expended by the people for radio if given in the report published recently that in 1923 alone more than \$24,000,000 was spent for vacuum tubes.

WTAS Aids in Relief Fund

Radio's value as a relief agency has been fully demonstrated by WTAS. Several weeks ago, following the disastrous Curran Hall fire, where nine firemen lost their lives, the Villa Olivia station broadcasted an appeal from its Kimball Hall studio for funds to aid the dependents. The response was generous and immediate.

Donations were received from all parts of the country. The "visible" audience at Kimball Hall on two occasions filled firemen's helmets which were passed around. Radio manufacturers in Chicago combined and donated receiving sets, radio parts and cash to the fund. WTAS officials appointed the Chicago Evening Post as the recipient of the fund and for three weeks announcers nightly sent forth the appeal to the world.

J. Lewis Guyon, owner of Guyon's Paradise Ballroom, Chicago, gave the receipts of his ballroom for one afternoon to the fund. The radio sets and parts, as well as hundreds of dollars worth of merchandise donated by merchants in Chicago were distributed to the thousands attending the matinee dance.

In all, nearly \$10,000 was raised and turned over to the authorities in charge of the relief work among the families of the firemen who lost their lives.

Four Million Fans On Pacific Coast

The Pacific coast has 4,000,000 radio fans, according to figures collected by Col. J. F. Dillon, radio supervisor for that district. California, alone, he says, has more than 500,000 sets, and with three to a set, figuring conservatively, he points to 1,500,000 listeners in that state alone.



"NUBS" ALLEN
WTAS Artist

Kimball Contest Is Huge Success

Chicago.—One of the most successful radio contests staged by WTAS during the present season was that of the W. W. Kimball Piano Company of Chicago.

Prizes valued at nearly \$2,000 were given away through the station, the first, a Kimball piano, being awarded to F. N. Whitesell, 4547 North Campbell Avenue, Chicago. Milton A. Utsinger Racine, Minnesota won the second prize, a \$285 Kimball phonograph with 25 Columbia records, and the third prize went to Frederick M. Stern, 7930 Oglesby Avenue, Chicago. It was a \$250 Kimball phonograph with 25 Columbia records.

In addition to the major prizes, 500 Columbia records were given away as consolation prizes.

The contest began May 12 and lasted one week. To qualify for the contest it was necessary to send in a telegram to WTAS containing the words "Kimball Piano and Columbia Record." Wires were received from all parts of the United States and Canada, some of the contestants sending in several telegrams in their eagerness to win one of the prizes. A total of three thousand telegrams were turned over to the Kimball Company by officials of the station.

F. P. Whitmore, secretary of the Kimball Company, was appointed to draw the winners. The telegrams were numbered and placed in a huge basket. Slips bearing duplicate numbers were placed in another receptacle and from these slips Mr. Whitmore drew the lucky numbers. The corresponding telegrams bearing the corresponding numbers won the grand prizes.

"The contest was a great success," said president C. N. Kimball of the Kimball Company "I want to thank the Villa Olivia Radiophone Station officials for their cooperation in handling the contest."

Shipwrecks "Enjoyed"

New York.—Here's a boon for those shipwrecked at sea. Hereafter sea-disasters will be "enjoyed" with radio receiving and sending sets fitted on life-boats. The new North German Lloyd liner Columbus has six of its life-boats equipped with radio sets for emergencies.

Chicago.—Radio has sent at least one man to the psychopathic hospital. With three gashes in his throat, inflicted when he attempted suicide to get away from the radio loud speakers in his neighborhood, William Fitz Gerald 46, of 26 West Chicago avenue has been sent to the hospital for observation.

"Chicago has gone radio crazy," Fitz Gerald told Chief Postal Inspector Germer, when he was examined.

Milwaukee.—Marquette University of Milwaukee, Wis., is planning to install a special course in radio construction and operation this year. This will be one of the first colleges in the world to adopt radio as a regular branch of the curriculum.

Conn Cornetist is WTAS Guest

Villa Olivia, near Elgin, Ill.—Willie Tommy Annie Sammy and the whole Villa Olivia family enjoyed a treat the other night when J. F. Boyer, secretary of the C. G. Conn Company of Elkhart, Indiana, nationally known makers of musical instruments visited the station. He was accompanied by Robert Bruce, a full-blooded Ojibway Indian cornetist, who was a leading member of Pershing's "Million Dollar Overseas Military Band" during the great war.

Bruce, (no relation to Robert of ancient Scottish fame) is known as one of America's greatest cornetists and is the official cornet tester of the Conn organization. Bruce delighted the WTAS fans practically the entire evening, and he received scores of congratulatory telegrams from those listening in.

Incidentally Mr. Boyer brought a valuable jeweled gold tenor Conn Saxophone to the station with him and it was awarded to the best "jingle" sent into the family headquarters via Western Union and Postal. The contest kept up for six days and the winner was announced at a Conn Party held at the Trianon Ballroom, Chicago. The best jingle, according to the judges was that from Mrs. O. C. Sims, of Elgin, Illinois, and accordingly she was awarded the saxophone. Her winning submission follows:

We Love the Tones of Saxophones
And artists, too, when clever,
Though bands may come and bands may go,
The Conn goes on forever.

Plan New World Radio Network

London, Eng.—Announcement has been made of the completion of plans for a new "network" of large broadcasting stations for Europe, America and the far east.

The first has already been completed at Saigon, French Indo-China. It can communicate direct with Bordeaux, a distance of 6,000 miles, with the Himalayas in between.

One Tube East Gets Station West

Magnolia, N. J.—Getting Los Angeles with a one tube, dry cell set was accomplished recently by Allen T. Haas of this city. Haas has been a DX radio fan for only two months. His outside aerial is 100 feet long, seven strand copper wire, running from the house (30 feet) to a tree 20 feet high. Aerial runs east and west, pointing due west.

Tube Set Without "B" Batteries

London.—A tube set that works with the ease of a crystal outfit has made its appearance on the British market. It is the invention of George Dowding and Kieth Rogers, and is operated successfully without "B" batteries.

W.T.A.S. RADIO CONCERTS



Program

All programs radiocasted on 286 meter wave length
Central standard time indicated

JUNE 30, JULY 7, 14, 21.

Program relayed from Kimball Hall, Chicago, over 35
mile leased wire to Elgin, Ill.

- 7:15—Lee Sims playing on Kimball organ.
7:15-8:30—Will Rossiter, Isobel Simpson, Betty Holmes, Jimmy Cairns, Charley Hughey, Lindsey Coons, Hirsh-Gorney & Miller Trio, and other WTAS artists in latest songs.
8:30-9:00—Arnold Johnson's Conn Orchestra in dance program. Numbers include The One I Love, Oriental, Wolverine Blues, Jessie James, Love Is A Gamble, California Here I Come, If You Do What You Do, Valse Boston.
9-9:30—Request numbers by Lee Sims and WTAS artists.
9:30-10:00—Dance program by Arnold Johnson Conn Orchestra. Program includes Jealous, Blue Evening Blues, What'll I Do?, Weary Weasel, Before You Go, Down Home Blues, Pasadena, Wild Rose, Remembering, Jolly Fellows, Pretty Peggy, Lots of Mamma, Need Some Pettin', etc.
10:00-11:00—Walter Donovan, Carmi Romano, William E. Anderson, Ophelia Twingstrand, and other WTAS artists in latest song hits; Lee Sims in special piano-organ selections; Interpolated and request numbers, dance program.
11:00-Midnight—Special Kimball Organ recital from the Stratford Theater, Chicago; popular and classical numbers.

JULY 1, 8, 15, 22.

- 2 P.M.-5:00—Latest baseball scores.
7:30 P.M.-7:45—Olivia, world's youngest broadcaster, telling bedtime stories to children.
7:45-8:00—Lee Sims, official WTAS pianist, request piano selections.
8:00-9:00—Dell Lampe's Conn-Trianon Orchestra in dance program. This orchestra uses instruments manufactured by the C. G. Conn Company, Ltd., of Elkhart, Ind. Program

includes Kiss Me Again, Dreamy Melody Marcheta, Dream Girl, Down Home Blues, Spain, Oh, Baby, I Love You, Limehouse Blues, Through The Night, etc. Request numbers.

9:00-10:00—Lee Sims in piano selections; Will Rossiter singing his own compositions; interpolated and request numbers.

10:00-11:00—Dance program by Dell Lampe's Conn-Trianon Orchestra. This program is relayed from the Trianon Ballroom, Chicago, over a 57 mile leased wire to Elgin. Numbers include Love Is A Gamble, A Kiss In The Dark, Sweetest Rose In Tennessee, Forget Me Not Means Remember Me, Innocent Eyes, etc. Lee Sims, Will Rossiter, other WTAS artists in request numbers.

11:00-11:30—Announcements, Lee Sims, Conn Orchestral numbers, etc.

JULY 2, 9, 16, 23.

- 2 P.M.-5:00—Up to the minute baseball scores.
7:30-8:00—Olivia, world's youngest broadcaster, telling bedtime stories to children.
8:00-8:30—Lee Sims, official WTAS pianist in piano selections; Will Rossiter in latest song hits.
8:30-9:30—Dance program by Dell Lampe's Conn-Trianon Orchestra; program includes following numbers: The Only Girl, Song Of Love, My Hero, River Shannon Moon, Lazy, The One I Love, Oriental, Wait'll You See My Girl, Wolverine Blues, etc.
9:30-10:00—Request numbers by Lee Sims, the Conn-Trianon Orchestra, Lee Sims and WTAS artists.
10:00-11:30—Final dance program by Lampe's Orchestra. Jealous, Blue Evening Blues, Kiss Me Again, It Had To Be You, Bambalina, Blue Grass Blues, etc.; announcements, etc.

JULY 3, 10, 17, 24.

- 2 P.M.-5:00—Up to the minute baseball scores.
7:30-8:00—Olivia, world's youngest broadcaster, telling bedtime stories to children.

[Continued foot of next page]

WTAS Scrap Book

Conducted by "ANNIE"



ISOBEL SIMPSON
Popular WTAS Artist

Bernard "Bunny" Granville, star of "No! No! Nanette" musical comedy now playing at the Harris Theatre, Chicago, paid a surprise visit to the Kimball Hall Studio of WTAS last Monday night. Granville, well known to musical comedy fans throughout the country, as an announcer is to the manner born, and entertained his visible and invisible audience for nearly half an hour. He has a comedy "microphone" monologue which is unique and he will be heard from again before he leaves Chicago.

Will Rossiter "The Daddy of Them All" and one of the favorites over the Villa Olivia circuit, has just republished his song "I Didn't Know" which he has popularized through this station. He gives Lee Sims, station pianist, credit for discovering this number. Sims, searching through the Rossiter files one day, found it, recognized

its worth, and began using it in his piano selections. Now it is one of the season's hits.

Sammy, the last and in his own opinion the most important member of the famous Villa Olivia family, is lulled to sleep nightly by the music from the WTAS station. When the Trianon Conn Orchestra begins a program of super-jazz, Sammy curls himself under the loud speaker in the studio, places his head between his paws and slumbers peacefully throughout the program. "Music soothes the savage breast" etc.

We are pleased to welcome a new member to the Illinois Broadcasting family. WQJ, the Calumet-Rainbo Station, on the North Side of Chicago, is the latest addition to those furnishing radio entertainment in the middle west. The wave length is 448 meters.



BERT DAVIS
Clown of the Air

PROGRAM—Continued

- 8:00-8:30—Lee Sims, official WTAS pianist in piano selections; Will Rossiter in latest song hits.
8:30-9:30—Dance program by Dell Lampe's Conn-Trianon Orchestra; program includes following numbers: The Only Girl, Song Of Love, My Hero, River Shannon Moon, etc.
9:30-10:00—Request numbers by Lee Sims, the Conn-Trianon Orchestra, Lee Sims and WTAS artists.
10:00-11:30—Final dance program by Lampe's Orchestra. Jealous, Blue Evening Blues, Kiss Me Again, It Had To Be You, Bambalina, Blue Grass Blues, etc.; announcements, etc.

JULY 4, 11, 18, 25.

- Patriotic addresses, songs, etc., will feature the program for July 4.
2 P.M.-5:00—Up to the minute baseball scores.
7:30-8:00—Olivia, world's youngest broadcaster, telling bedtime stories to children.
8:00-8:30—Lee Sims, official WTAS pianist in piano selections; Will Rossiter in latest song hits.
8:30-9:30—Dance program by Dell Lampe's Conn-Trianon Orchestra; program includes following numbers: The Only Girl, Song Of Love, My Hero, River Shannon Moon, etc.

[Continued foot of page thirteen]

Help! Help!

"ON THE AIR" is going to conduct a "Help! Help!" Column for its readers. It will be a means of telling the fans what they want to know about radio. Troubles of the "Willie Tommy Annie Sammy" family will receive special consideration.

There will be no charge for this service, therefore fans should limit all letters to as few questions as possible.

Write plainly, on one side of the paper only, with ink or on typewriter. Diagrams of hook-ups must be made on separate sheet of paper.

Self-addressed and stamped envelopes must be enclosed. Answers may be given by mail or in the "Help! Help!" department of "ON THE AIR" if they are of general interest. Address all questions to "ON THE AIR," Elgin, Illinois.

Berlin Taxing Radio Users

Berlin.—Fifty-five thousand radio "bootleggers" broadcasting spongers and eavesdroppers found to have been evading the German government tax, have been brought to time by drastic measures taken by the authorities and compelled to pay the statutory license of fifty cents each per month, which will be added to the reparation funds.

The aid of chimney sweeps, roof repairers, grocery delivery boys, the radio dealers themselves, and others to locate violators and make the radio fans toe the line. The first offender caught was haled into court and subjected to a fine and imprisonment, this example having a salutary effect.

King Albert Is Ardent Radio Bug

Brussels.—Radio fans in Belgium are now getting first class concerts from the Brussels broadcasting station, the only one in the country. King Albert, Europe's flying king, recently installed a modern receiving set in his palace and is one of the most devoted radio fans in the kingdom. He frequently listens in to British and French broadcasting stations and is following the development of radio with great interest.

Church Aided by Broadcasts

Washington, D. C.—Radio as a means of bringing spiritual unity to this land of many creeds is predicted by Rev. James E. Freeman, famous Episcopalian bishop.

Bishop Freeman has been working on a plan to broadcast sermons by eminent clergymen and laymen all the way across the country from the National Cathedral at Washington. He has been conferring on the subject with Senator Marconi, inventor of wireless, Lee De Forest, William Jennings Bryan and others.

Elgin Resumes Sunday Concerts

Elgin, Ill.—Beginning Sunday, June 14, the Villa Olivia Radiophone station, WTAS, located four miles east of this city, resumed its Sunday afternoon concerts, which were discontinued a few weeks ago.

Charles E. Erbstein, owner of WTAS broadcasting station decided to continue the Sunday concerts throughout the summer months, because of the great number of requests received from all parts of the country.

The Sunday afternoon programs begin at three o'clock Chicago daylight saving time and end at six o'clock Chicago daylight saving time. Piano, orchestral and song numbers feature the Sabbath concerts.

Regulation!

Washington.—The Department of Commerce has issued the following radio regulation:

"During the daylight saving period, or from May 1, to October 1, 1924, all general, restricted and special amateur transmitting stations are required to observe a silent period from 7 P.M. to 10:30 P.M. local standard time, or from 8 P.M. to 11:30 P.M. daylight saving time, and on Sundays during church services."

Colleges Broadcast

Chicago.—Eighty broadcasting licenses have been issued to universities and colleges in the United States.

Among those already active in this sort of extension work are the University of California, Oregon Institute of Technology, Washington State College, University of Colorado, University of Arizona, Oregon Agriculture College, Leland Stamford Junior University, Tulane, Missouri, Purdue, Texas, Cornell, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio State College, Pennsylvania State College, Kansas State Agricultural College, and the University of Minnesota.

New Log Issued

Chicago.—The Union Trust Company of Chicago is issuing the "Radio Index and Log" in the interests of Radio fans of Chicago and vicinity. The log contains a list of the more important broadcasting stations in the country with the wavelengths of each station given. Three columns are provided in which the radio fan may mark the numbers on his dials at which he receives the various stations.

Here's Dope On British Stations

London.—The call letters and wave lengths in meters of British Broadcasting stations are as follows: London 2L0-365; Aberdeen 2BD-495; Birmingham 5IT-475; Bournemouth 6BM-385; Cardiff 5WA-353; Glasgow 5SC-420; Manchester ZZY-5PY-330; Sheffield 6FL-303.

Radio As Town Crier; A Vision

Skyscrapers equipped with municipal announcers, consisting of concrete or non-vibrating horns pointing downwards, is predicted as a development of radio broadcasting by the editor of Science and Invention. They will be modern "town criers," and will be used to broadcast all news either of civic or national importance so that the whole city will be able to hear every word.

Recent experiments have demonstrated that it is possible to amplify the human voice by means of huge horns and vacuum tubes so that it can be heard distinctly over a radius of from three to five miles. Weather reports, messages to citizens on important civic activities, and other information directly affecting the city would constitute part of the daily program.

Great for Police

"For police work," says Science and Invention, "such a device would be invaluable. Suppose a robbery or murder is committed; the police headquarters can immediately broadcast this news so that every citizen in the neighborhood will be on the lookout for a certain car and will have a description of the law-breaker. The important point is that the information will be instantaneous, which in the detection of crime is of the utmost importance."

Villa Olivia is Jazz Station

Jazz is losing ground regularly throughout the country, according to Station WJAX, Cleveland. That station is planning a program of operatic music to replace its regular Jazz evenings and many other stations are reported doing likewise.

Station WTAS is satisfied that its millions of "fans" want popular music and has no plans to substitute anything for its present peppy Jazz and song program. There are not many sopranos and very few tenors allowed on Willie Tommy Annie and Sammy's curriculum and judging from the thousands of letters received weekly, Jazz and popular stuff will reign supreme on the Elgin waves for many moons to come.

Radio Cures; Deafness Gone

Farmdale, Ill.—Radio has restored another sufferer from deafness to hearing. Helen Houston, who lost the use of both of her ears following an operation several years ago, donned a pair of receivers and tuned in on WOC Davenport. A high note from a singer of that station is said to have broken her deafness.

Two More For Orient

Washington.—The orient is going to get two more broadcasting stations. The Netherlands Indies government announces that two new "broadcasters" will soon be completed in Sumatra, where there is at present only one high powered station.

World's Youngest "Mike" Speaker

"Willie Tommy Annie and Sammy;" the Villa Olivia radiophone station, has introduced another innovation into the radio world.

Olivia Erbstein, 10-year-old daughter of Charles E. Erbstein, prominent Chicago attorney and owner of the Villa Olivia station, has just blossomed forth as the youngest broadcaster in the world. From the WTAS station, located four miles east of this city, she is telling bedtime stories for children nightly at 8:30, Chicago time.

Mr. Erbstein's talented daughter went on the air for the first time a week ago last Monday. Her "act" was an instantaneous success. Choosing as her first bedtime "yarn" one of the Mother Goose rhymes, she spoke to thousands of children for nearly ten minutes, and the next day she received more than 100 letters of appreciation from her little listeners all over the country.

"Good evening, children," was her opening salutation to her invisible audience. "This is Olivia broadcasting, and I want to tell you a bedtime story." And for five minutes she read her story to the microphone. When she had finished she bade her audience good-night in the following words: "And now good-night, children. I hope you have enjoyed my story. I am coming to visit you again tomorrow night, so be sure and wait for me. Good-night."

Has Visible Audience

Olivia evinced not a sign of stagefright at her first performance over the radio. With all the self-possession of a seasoned actress, she broadcast her first story like a veteran. Professors of elocution and voice who listened declared her delivery perfect. Her voice, low and pleasing, carried over the air with perfect modulation. The youngest broadcaster did not exhibit the slightest signs of nervousness, despite the fact that in addition to her invisible audience, she was speaking in front of nearly 100 people in the beautiful Elgin studio.

Olivia takes her honors modestly. "I like it," she admitted. "If the children like it half as much as I do, we are going to have a wonderful time together. And I want all my little friends to write to me and tell me if they want me to continue. I will try and read the stories they like."

LEE SIMS

With this issue of "ON THE AIR" we are sending you a picture of Lee Sims, popular pianist of the WTAS station. Next month we will tell you just who Lee Sims is, where he came from and how he happened to join the staff of the Villa Olivia Radiophone Station. Lee will have something to say regarding his experiences as a "Microphone pianist."

Meet The Ha! Ha! Man of WTAS

He's Human But Shy

Here, friends, we have the famous "Ha! Ha! Man."

Yes, it is he himself—in the flesh, not a motion picture. His is the voice that entertains you from the Villa Olivia Radiophone station at Elgin, Illinois—the home of the "Willie, Tommy Annie Sammy."

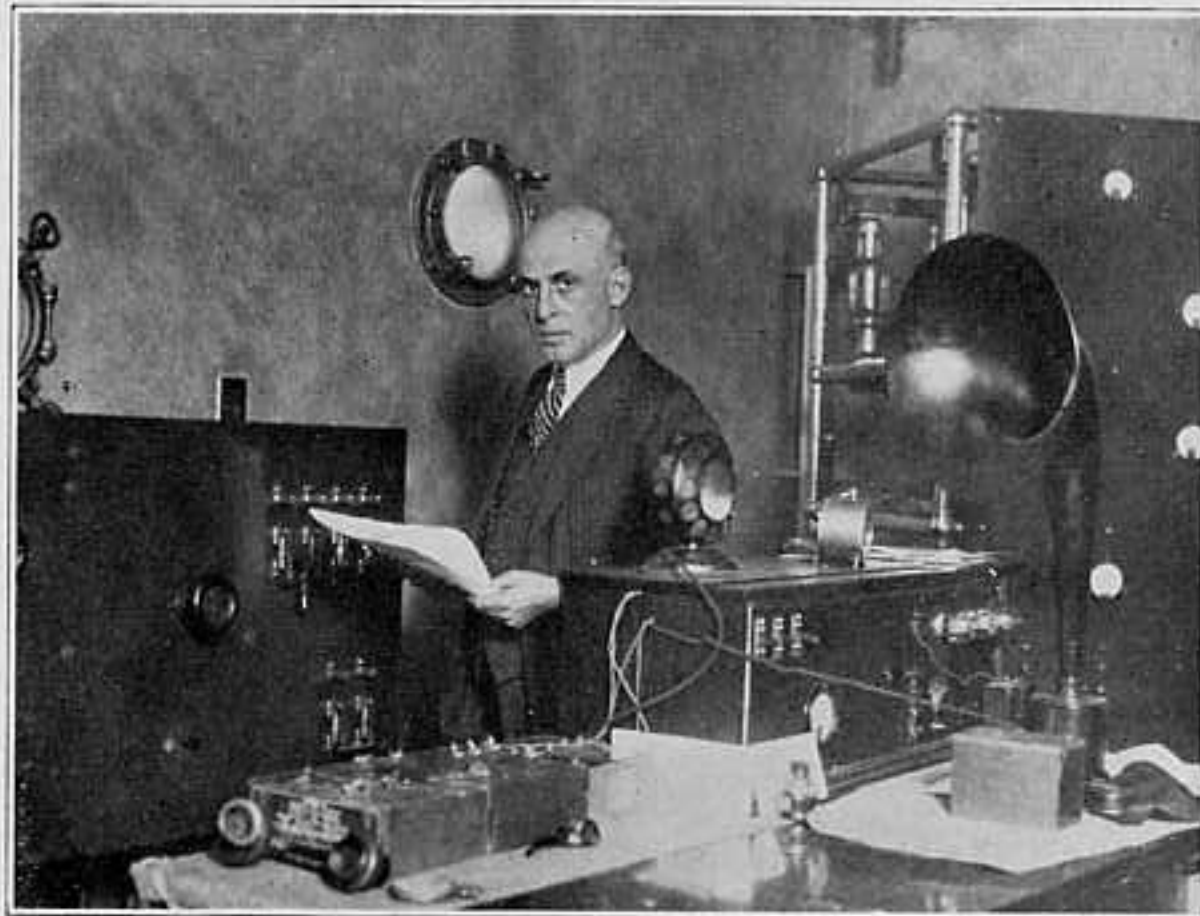
His "Ha! Ha!" is known wherever radio reaches. From the well known rock-ribbed coasts of Maine, up and down and across this broad continent, Central and South America, Honolulu, Canada and Alaska and even from Elgin, Illinois, have come letters, telegrams and telephone calls congratulating the WTAS station on its good fortune in having such a versatile announcer.

His modesty forbids our publishing his name. But we have taken the privilege of informing the hundreds of thousands of members of the "Family Roster" that his boss has at last given him a raise and he will be with us indefinitely.

As you can see, he is a terribly earnest person when he gets in front of the microphone. We have often tried to fathom where the famous "Ha! Ha!" came from after studying such a serious countenance. To date we have been baffled. But it is there, just the same, and is nightly eagerly awaited by the fans who have notched WTAS as a permanent evening's entertainment.



THE HA! HA! MAN AT THE "MIKE"



"WTAS BROADCASTING"

With his "Horse, Keep Your Tail Up" and "It Aint Goin' To Rain No More," and his "Ha! Ha!" Villa Olivia's popular announcer has gladdened the hearts of millions. Huge files of congratulatory letters testify to this. More than ten thousand pictures of him have been mailed to listeners-in to "Willie Tommy Annie and Sammy."

He is seen in this picture broadcasting from the handsome studio located on the estate of Charles E. Erbstein near Elgin, Illinois. During the daytime he disappears into the great maw of Chicago—then back to Elgin and his work of the evening.

Monday evenings he is at Kimball Hall studio, Chicago, at Jackson Boulevard and Wabash avenue. Here WTAS artists broadcast before an audience which varies from 500 to nearly 1000 people. Here the "Ha! Ha!" man is master of ceremonies, and the writer feels that

no one will contradict him when he says that the major portion of the entertainment is furnished by the "manatthemike."

Don't forget that he is in the contest being conducted by the Radio Digest, Chicago, to determine the world's most popular announcer. He is among those in front now, but every little bit helps, and we know he would appreciate your vote cast in his favor.

Ten Radio Commandments

By C. J. UDELL
Technical Advisor

"Hello! Girls and Boys, old and young.

As the technical adviser of "Willie Tommie Annie Sammy" I have been deluged with queries as to "how to tune my set." To answer this, as we of experience know, is an impossibility. No one can tell you, as well as you can determine for yourself how to get the most efficiency out of your set, whether it be a simple single tube or a multi-tube super-heterodyne receiver. Therefore it occurred to me that a few simple rules would best suffice for those of our family who are anxious to get the best results from their outfits.

1—Know your set.

That is, spending a little time studying the apparatus and connections.

2—Be sure

the battery, aerial and ground wires are properly connected.

3—Be methodical.

As soon as your aerial and ground leads are permanently installed "log" your set. That is, record the position of each dial and switch arm for different stations received.

4—Be economical.

Best reception is not necessarily obtained by "throwing on all the juice." Use as little battery as is consistent with clear reception. This will prolong the life of your tubes as well as the batteries.

5—Be patient.

If the results you get at first are not satisfactory, try other combinations of the dials and switch arms.

6—Be considerate.

If your reception of distant stations is not all you would desire, nevertheless it may be very good for the type of set you have.

7—Be satisfied

with local reception when distant programs are "chopped up" by static. As yet there is no "cure" available to the fans to eliminate this.

8—Be on the alert

for any improvements on your particular type of set as noted in the advertisements of its manufacturer or in the reliable radio publications.

9—Be appreciative.

If you have enjoyed any particular program or even some one number or artist, advise the station of it. This is their only means of knowing how you like their efforts in trying to entertain you.

10—Be explicit

as possible in writing any publication who conduct a "Question Box" or "Fans Column" or other means of helping you solve your problems. Give all the detail you can as to the type of set and apparatus used, and explain your difficulty clearly.

Let's hope the above might aid you in a general way and don't forget that I will be glad to answer your particular questions if you will send me a stamped self addressed envelope.

HELP! HELP!

PROGRAM—Continued

[Continued from Page Nine]

9:30-10:00—Request numbers by Lee Sims, the Conn-Trianon Orchestra, Lee Sims and WTAS artists.

10:00-11:30—Final dance program by Lampe's Orchestra. Jealous, Blue Evening Blues, Kiss Me Again, It Had To Be You, Bambalina, Blue Grass Blues, etc.; announcements, etc.

JULY 5, 12, 19, 26.

2 P.M.-5:00—Up to the minute baseball scores.
7:30-8:00—Olivia, world's youngest broadcaster, telling bedtime stories to children.

8:00-8:30—Lee Sims, official WTAS pianist in piano selections; Will Rossiter in latest song hits.

8:30-9:30—Dance program by Del Lampe's Conn-Trianon Orchestra; program includes following numbers: The Only Girl, Song Of Love, My Hero, River Shannon Moon, Lazy, The One I Love, Oriental, Wait'll You See My Girl, Wolverine Blues, etc.

9:30-10:00—Request numbers by Lee Sims, the Conn-Trianon Orchestra, Lee Sims and WTAS artists.

10:00-11:30—Final dance program by Lampe's Orchestra. Jealous, Blue Evening Blues, Kiss Me Again, It Had To Be You, Bambalina, Blue Grass Blues, etc.; announcements, etc.

JULY 6, 13, 20, 27.

2 P.M.-5:00—Musical and song program.

7:30-8:00—Olivia, world's youngest broadcaster, telling bedtime stories to children.

8:00-8:30—Lee Sims, official WTAS pianist in piano selections; Will Rossiter in latest song hits.

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9:30-10:00—Request numbers by Lee Sims, the Conn-Trianon Orchestra, Lee Sims and WTAS artists.

10:00-11:30—Final dance program by Lampe's Orchestra. Jealous, Blue Evening Blues, Kiss Me Again, It Had To Be You Bambalina.

We'll admit it doesn't compare with the Saturday Evening Post for fiction or the National Geographic Magazine for travel features, but it has the news of WTAS.

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