

# The Atlanta Journal—"Voice of the South"



You have just heard "Tot" Kay announce the next number. Stand by for but a second and the charming misses will entertain you.

## WSB, One of the First

By Bonnie Barnhardt

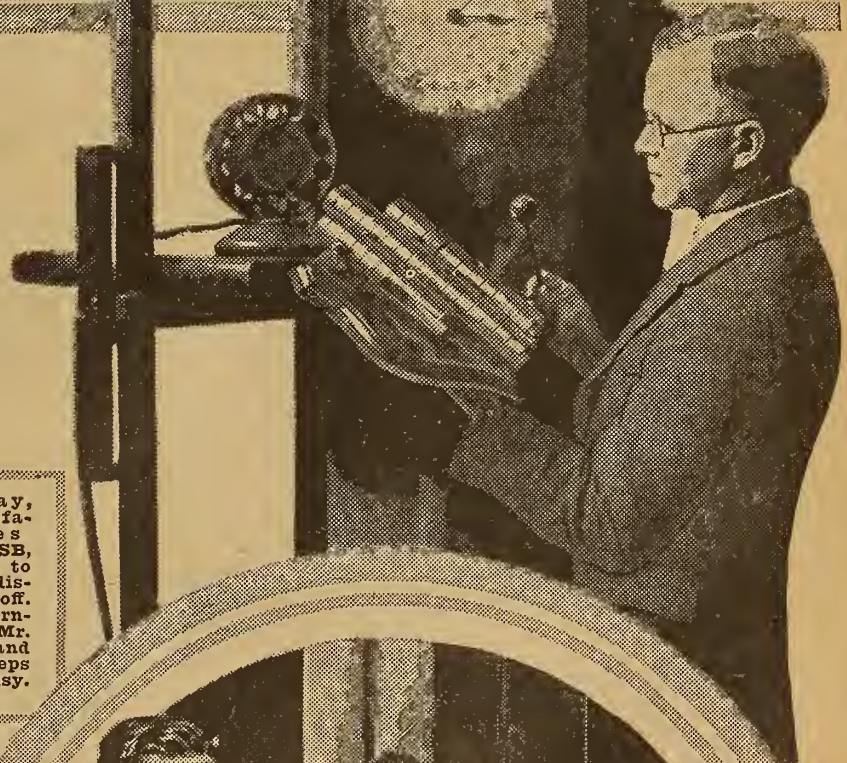
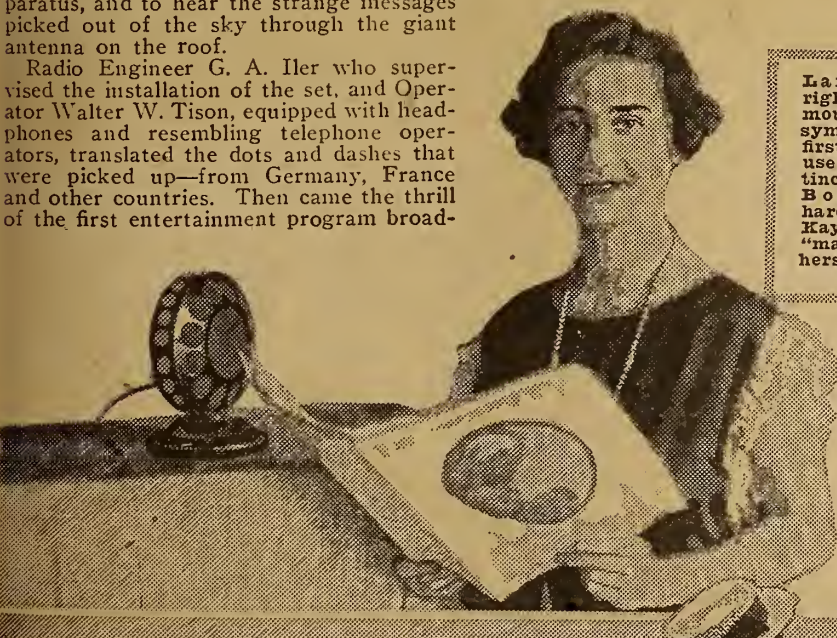
WSB was born on March 16, 1922. On that day The Atlanta Journal carried a front page story announcing that the South's first big broadcasting station had been installed on the top floor of The Journal building. Thousands of curious visitors flocked to the fifth floor to view and marvel at the mysterious apparatus, and to hear the strange messages picked out of the sky through the giant antenna on the roof.

Radio Engineer G. A. Her who supervised the installation of the set, and Operator Walter W. Tison, equipped with headphones and resembling telephone operators, translated the dots and dashes that were picked up—from Germany, France and other countries. Then came the thrill of the first entertainment program broad-

cast—and the weather and market reports and news. So began the Radio era in Dixie.

After three months of operation, WSB was christened on June 13 as a standard 500-watt outfit, the second of its type in the world, and one (Continued on page 7)

Lambdin Kay, right, and his famous chimes symbolic of WSB, first station to use such a distinctive sign-off. Bonnie Barnhardt, left, is Mr. Kay's right hand "man" and keeps herself very busy.



"Ti" Tison (circle) is chief operator and "static eradicator" for WSB. He claims he is kept away a head of himself jumping from place to place picking up relays. Lower left is Kay with some-body's goat.





# FROLIC AT MEMPHIS TO OPEN SEASON

## HOLD REDEDICATION FOR 'HUSHPUCKINNY'

WMC TO LAUNCH MYTHICAL BOAT SEPTEMBER 12

"Down in Dixie" Station Returns to Regular Winter Schedule with Special Midnight Frolic

By Katherine Nelson

MEMPHIS.—The Hushpuckinny is coming back. That mythical ship that sailed an etheric sea for listeners of WMC, "Memphis Down in Dixie," is to be launched again. The Hushpuckinny has been on the ways for several months being refitted and refurnished to suit the tastes of the crew and passengers. The old deep-toned whistle has been overhauled and its solemn notes will be heard again within the week.



G. L. DEARING

Here in Memphis Skipper Jerry Dearing and the crew of the old river boat are preparing for a launching when the Hushpuckinny will slide down the ways into the water. Ceremonies befitting a ship of the greatest class are being prepared. Music, speakers, champagne and all the festivities that attend the launching of great ships will be provided.

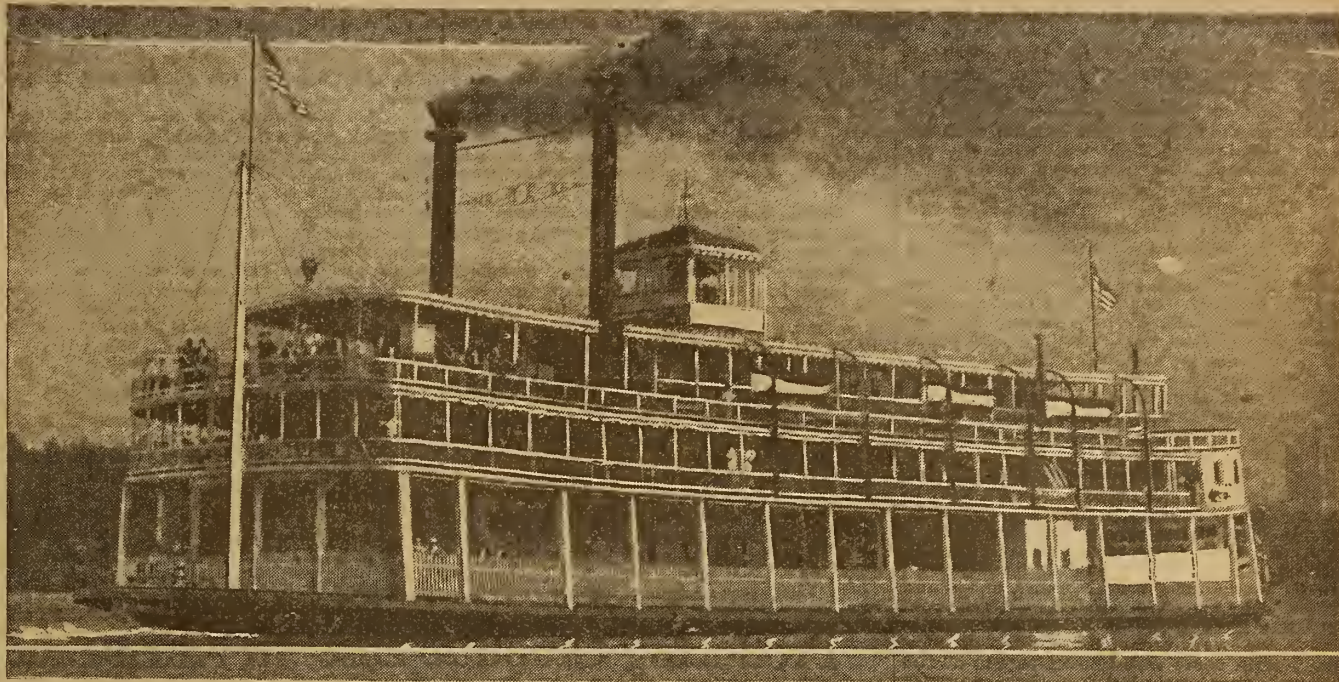
Launching Set for September 12

The Hushpuckinny is the child of the brain of George D. Hay, present announcer of WLS, Chicago. The steamboat whistle was brought to the station by L. D. Semmes, first announcer of WMC. Mr. Hay added the name and constructed the mythical ship. Bob Miller and his Steamer Idlewild orchestra played on the program that introduced the whistle and on the one that saw the birth of the ship. They will provide the music on the night of the second launching.

The Hushpuckinny will be launched on the night of September 12, at 11:30 o'clock, Central time, in the middle portion of a Midnight Frolic by Bob Miller and his boys. Mr. Miller is preparing his jazziest program for that evening in anticipation of an extraordinary Radio audience.

To Break Bottle of "Champagne"

Announcer Dearing will be master of



Phantom Ship "Hushpuckinny," to be launched again and sail the etheric sea from WMC, Commercial Appeal, "Down in Dixie."

ceremonies. The skipper will give the signal for the launching and will stand by to give the first blast of the whistle when the boat reaches the water. The Very Rev. Israel Noe, dean of St. Mary's cathedral, will make the launching address.

The breaking of the non-existent bottle of champagne across the phantom bow will be left to some Memphis beauty as yet undecided. Every part of the launching will be audible and will be broadcast so that all may witness the event.

The launching of the Hushpuckinny will mark the opening of the winter season for WMC and its staff. A series of the good old Southern concerts that made the station famous will be put on the air this winter.

## PRIZE FOR BEGINNERS' DESCRIPTION OF RADIO

Judges of Contest Will Be Prominent French Scientists

PARIS.—A commendable effort to interest beginners in radio is being made in France, where a contest has been opened offering prizes to anyone who can set forth in the most simple and non-technical language the principals of Radio telephony, both for transmission and reception.

The prizes will be in cash, the Lakhovsky foundation having already subscribed 1,000 francs, and M. Chiron, editor of "L'Onde Electrique," 500 francs. The text of the explanation must not be more than 15,000 words, and must remain absolutely anonymous. Second and third prizes will also be offered.

Among the judges are MM. Bellini, Belin, Corret, Beauvais, Levy and Veaux.

## People on Excursion Steamers Use Radio

Dance to Music from Station WWJ Aboard Ship

DETROIT.—Thousands of people on the excursion boats along the Detroit river, and other steamers on the great lakes, especially those on Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair and Lake Huron, are doing much of their dancing this summer from music broadcast from Station WWJ, the Detroit News. More than 1,800 persons were made happy at one time recently on the Steamer Tashmoo all the way from Port Huron and Tashmoo park to the pier in Detroit by dance music furnished from this station.

Dancing to music that is being played many miles away, and especially when the dancing is out in a great lake, has an inspiration all its own.

Station WWJ has made a specialty of orchestra and band music this summer. Besides the boats on the lakes and rivers depending on it largely for entertainment, it also is being received at most of the municipal parks in different parts of the city.

The orchestra and band furnishing this music are made up of real artists, many of their selections being heard on phonograph records. Individual band playing in the Detroit parks has almost entirely ceased with the exception of the Scherman band at Belle Isle, which is broadcast twice daily to the other parks and to the boats out in the lakes and rivers. The programs are arranged to suite the tastes of everyone, consisting of both popular and classical selections.

## Concerts with Microphone Open Please Radiophans

COLUMBUS, OHIO.—Open "mike" concerts are found to be extremely popular with listeners who hear WBAV regularly. For several weeks, each Friday night, when the Dispatch program is presented through WBAV, the microphone has been left open from the beginning of the concert to the end. The listeners hear the program director giving instructions to the artists; hear the applause of those in the studio; hear impromptu remarks by the entertainers to those about them. Hundreds of listeners have written in, asking that this plan be continued, as it enables them to imagine that they are right in the studio instead of at their sets at home.

## Large Number of Notables Join Franco-American Club

PARIS.—Reginald Gouraud, the American Radio ace of Paris, reports that he is making splendid progress with his Anglo-Franco-American Radio Club, which he started to organize only about a month ago. Ambassador Herrick, the ambassador in Paris, has accepted the office of honorary president. Also, although he has not officially accepted as yet, the Prince of Wales planning to join.

## ANNOUNCER BACK AT KANSAS CITY AGAIN

"MERRY OLD CHIEF" COMES TO FRONT ONCE MORE

Away for Three Months on Combination Chatauqua and Honeymoon; Will Start Frolic Again

KANSAS CITY, MO.—Leo Fitzpatrick, the "Merry Old Chief" of the Kansas City Star Nighthawks, who for three months has been on tour with a Chatauqua, has returned to WDAF.

A five hour celebration was given recently in his honor. Many of WDAF's favorites, including The Plantation Players, Hotel Muehlebach, Charles Dornberger's Victor Record orchestra, playing on the Kansas City Athletic club roof garden, Eddie Kuhn's Kansas City club orchestra, McMillan's Ivanhoe temple orchestra, and the Star's own orchestra had a part in the program. In addition, L. FITZPATRICK the "Chief," otherwise R. A. Dio, sang several popular numbers assisted by the WDAF minstrels.

Frolic on Every Night

Beginning September first, the Nighthawk frolics resumed nightly instead of every other night as had been the schedule during the summer months. Charters will again be granted at the rate of hundreds a night, and the professor will "strut his stuff" as of old. After having a chance to "catch up" on sleep the Nighthawk flock should be now ready to stick to the head phones for the two hours each night, during the winter.

"Had a wonderful time," said Mr. Fitzpatrick of his trip, "but I'm surely glad to be back.

"I never realized what a large membership the organization had until I visited some of those small towns on the circuit. Most everyone claimed to be a member of the Nighthawks."

Mrs. Leo Fitzpatrick accompanied her husband on the trip which was also a honeymoon, but was taken sick with typhoid fever and was forced to remain in a hospital for over a month. She is recovering rapidly however.

The Hungarian government is planning to allow receiving sets to be used in that country, if they be sealed. This will mean doubtless, another trial for the idea originally adopted by Australia, but which proved unsuccessful there and was abandoned.



L. FITZPATRICK

## The Atlanta Journal, "Voice of the South," Boasts Interesting History

(Continued from page 5)

of the half-dozen pioneer giants of the country. A specially treated echo-proof studio was added to the other equipment. With padded walls, draped windows and thick rugs it was declared to be acoustically perfect for broadcasting purposes.

Thus was Atlanta and the South established as a pivotal center of Radio progress. WSB is now in its third year of service, and the Radio miracle has become as much of an institution in daily life as the telephone, the phonograph, the piano, and the street car.

Personalities Behind "Voice of the South"

For something over a year, WSB transmitted on the wave of 360 meters for entertainment and 485 meters for weather, markets, etc. In the fall of 1922, WSB was fully accredited as a Class B station, and given the wave of 400 meters, which later at the National Radio Conference in Washington was changed to 429, the present wave.

The Radio staff at WSB whose personalities have made The Journal station what it is, are: Lambdin Kay, chief announcer and director of the station; Miss Bonnie Barnhardt, staff artist and associate director; Walter W. Tison, chief operator; C. F. "Harry" Daugherty, associate operator; and Rufus B. Duncan, Jr., third assistant. Two other nationally famous personalities who have been important factors in popularizing WSB, are Ernest Rogers, Journal reporter-poet-troubadour, and Fiddlin' John Carson, Dixie's champion oldtime fiddler.

"Tot" Kay Has Many Brain Children

Lambdin Kay, better known to his friends as "Tot" Kay, has already had his past history and misdeeds pretty well uncovered to the Radio world at large. The famous slogan, "The Voice of the South," is a child of his brain; likewise, the idea of the three-note chiming used as an identification signal.

Too, the policy of the station of trying to gauge the wishes of the great cosmopolitan Radio audience and giving them as near as possible what they want, of feeling the pulse of the unseen listeners and of steering clear of anything savoring of the stereotyped and one-track policy, is the creed of Mr. Kay. That, more than any other one thing, has been the means of keeping WSB at the head of the list with the other national stations.

Creed of WSB's Director

The Journal's director believes that when a man, woman or child is enough interested to listen in, he or she is entitled to hear everything said, and everything transmitted. So, insofar as he is able, he makes this possible, first by his vocal delivery, second, by his direction of the placing of the various units giving the program, and third by his general supervision of everything that goes from WSB's studio to the ears of those listening.

Besides announcing the night programs and directing affairs in general at the Station, Mr. Kay also essays the job of editor of the Radio page in the daily and Sunday Journal; shakes hands with scores of visitors every day; makes speeches at all sorts of luncheons and dinners; articulates (Continued on page 10)

## Operator Hanged for Murder

LONDON.—At the coroner's inquest over the body of the famous murderer Vaquier, recently hanged in England under such dramatic and tragic circumstances, the Superintendent of Police found that it was "Pierre Vaquier, 41 years, Radio operator."

Another international tongue, "parlamento" has been suggested to the League of Nations. The new tongue is said to compare favorably with Esperanto.



### TELL ARTIST EDITOR OF YOUR FAVORITES

**D**O YOU have a favorite Radiocast artist whose picture has not appeared in Radio Digest? If so tell the Artist Photo editor about it. Write him a little note mentioning the artist's name and station and he will attempt to give you what you want. The photographs, however, will be restricted to those artists for whom there are a number of requests. Space limitations demand the latter provision. Just write your note to the Artist Photo editor, care of Radio Digest, Chicago.

### WSB, "VOICE OF SOUTH"

(Continued from page 7)

ranges programs; plays golf; works twenty six hours a day; owns an automobile, and does not look like he sounds.

#### Introducing Bonnie Barnhardt

Miss Bonnie Barnhardt, came to join WSB's forces in July, 1922. Prior to that time her greatest interests in life were basketball, dancing and playing the piano for a jazz orchestra. Then one night she happened to accompany a friend to The Journal's studio and after a talk with Mr. Iler, who was an old friend, and Mr. Kay, she consented to "try-out" for the place of staff artist.

Miss Bonnie admits that she had always had a "hankering" to write, so after awhile she was told the five things that must go into a newspaper story "lead," and given instructions to turn out her first story. Since then, her "Underwood" is kept fairly busy aiding in giving recognition of entertainers who present WSB's concerts.

Miss Bonnie is called the "Lady O' the Radio," and one of her principal tasks is telling the daily bedtime story, running a column in The Sunday Journal, called "Bonnie's Bedtime Corner," and singing and playing for the myriads of kiddies (and grownups) who listen to WSB every afternoon. She also arranges programs, does a good deal of handshaking, sometimes pinch-hits as announcer; has bobbed hair, a cheerful disposition, and a sense of humor; likes to "make-up" the page, and drive an automobile; prefers chicken breasts and livers; and loves Ra-

dio and newspaper work above every other job on earth.

#### "Ti" Tison, "Static Eradicator"

Walter W. Tison, WSB's chief operator, and "Static Eradicator" has charge of the physical well-being of The Journal's operating apparatus, and is kept way ahead of himself, he says, jumping from place to place with his amplifying unit handling relays of various characters, from motorcycle races and Elk parades to jazz harmony by Warner's Seven Aces on the Capital City Club Roof Garden.

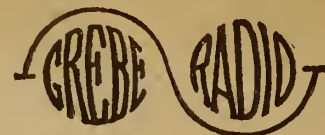
Mr. Tison is known throughout WSB's daylight range as "The Old Daylight Announcer," as he styles himself in announcing the midday and 5 o'clock programs. He hails from Cedartown, Ga., and saw service as Radio operator on board ship, from whence he came to WSB. "Ti" as his fellow laborers know him, is also the second party of WSB's first Radio romance. The other party, now Mrs. Tison, and formerly the "Virginia Girl with the Guitar," is still one of The Journal's most popular entertainers.

Associate operator C. F. "Harry" Daugherty alternates with Mr. Tison in handling the daylight schedules, and in doing duty in manipulation of the set at night. During the war Mr. Daugherty received a commission as ensign in the U. S. Navy. He also served as operator on board ship, and is a capable technical man. "Harry" is also the proud father of two charming youngsters.

#### "Willie the Weeper" and "Fiddlin' John"

Two of WSB's biggest assets are Earnest Rogers and Fiddlin' John Carson. Ernest Rogers is known from coast to coast for his "Willie the Weeper;" "Mythological Blues;" "My Red Haired Lady;" "Forgiveness," and many others of his homemade ditties, which he sings and plays to the accompaniment of his "brand-new, second hand, seven-year-old guitar." Ernest is primarily one of the Journal's star reporters, but he is without doubt one of the cleverest and most popular Radio stars in the United States.

Fiddlin' John Carson first became known when he was eight times declared Champion Fiddler of Dixie. This acquaintance was naturally limited to a comparatively small circle, but then Fiddlin' John heard of Radio and forthwith arranged to broadcast a program of his characteristic old-time backwoods tunes. He did—and today the Fannin county fiddlin' mountaineer is the most popular and famous fiddler in the country while his phonograph records sell like hot-cakes.



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