

1955

Alumni Dial

Columbia College Chicago

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1908 GRAD RE-ENROLLS AS 1954 TV STUDENT

L.A. EXAMINER FEATURE
REVIEWS MATTIE ALLEN'S CAREER

Emphatically refuting George Bernard Shaw's observation that, "it's a pity that youth is wasted on the young," is Columbia's Mrs. Mattie Allen. Graduated from CC in 1908, the former Mattie Russell was re-enrolled as a regular student in the TV department of the College's Los Angeles Division during the summer term of 1954 and she'll be back in the summer of '55 if attending classes can be fitted into her rigorous schedule.



Mrs. Mattie Allen

According to a feature story in the Los Angeles Examiner, "When Hollywood began to steal pre-eminence from New York's Broadway in the TV field, the Chicago College opened a division in L.A. So Mrs. Allen, who became a Southern California resident many years ago, didn't have so far to go to re-matriculate with her alma mater.

Mrs. Allen, whose standout career as a teacher of speech and dramatics spans almost half a century, said, "the first time I went to Columbia in Chicago, I got the money for tuition by selling the calves I raised on my father's farm in Missouri."

In 1911 Mattie Allen was Dean of Girls at Long Beach (California) High School in addition to her teaching assignments. She was head of the Speech and Drama departments at high schools in Fullerton and Pomona, Calif. At these schools Mrs. Allen's classes consistently copped the top places in statewide drama competition.

Since retiring as a teacher, Mrs. Allen has been associated with the Long Beach Community Players. She has played top roles in such productions as "Spring Again," "Claudia," and "The Women." Her most recent appearance was in "January Thaw," which has just finished a long run.

DICK SUTTER UP AS OWNER, GENERAL MGR. WRNM

Topping seven very successful years in broadcasting, Richard Sutter moves way up as Owner-General Manager of the rich market independent, WRNM, Elgin, Illinois. Leaving college in 1947, Dick began at a station in Farmington, Illinois and worked on several Illinois stations before coming to WRNM. His radio charge has already won several national awards and did the origination on the Horace Heidt Show and broadcast the Indianapolis Speedway Classic among recent standout radio presentations.

columbia college

Alumni DIAL

Chicago, Illinois

THE SPOTLIGHT'S ON ALUMNI HITS IN TV SHOW BIZ AND MOTION PICS...

Another Round-Up of Alumni Profiles. Stepping into the Spotlight . . . A Variety of Topnotch Performers from Education and the Entertainment World.

SHECKY GREENE A SMASH HIT EVERYWHERE

In the "hep" style of Variety, the top trade publication of the entertainment industry, ex-Columbia College student, Shecky Greene is "Socko" everywhere. Off rave performances in the featured spot at such places as the "El Rancho" in Las Vegas, this exciting, new talent, Shecky Greene, seems assured of top acclaim in the entertainment world for many years to come.

AL SWEETOW TV PRODUCTIONS ALWAYS OUTSTANDING

One of the busiest TV producers in the Chicago area is Alan Sweetow, whose high rated shows are tops with Chicago audiences. A former staff producer-director at one of the Windy City's TV stations, Sweetow is now independently producing features on all of the area's stations.

Among Alan's shows have been, "The Claude Kirschner Show," "Number Please," starring Jack Brickhouse, the "Open House" show with Frankie Masters, and many hit TV variety shows. At WBKB, Alan Sweetow won several national awards for TV show excellence. He is currently getting "Your Sheriff in Action" ready for summer series TV airing.

ROBERT ROHR: HAVE TUX. WILL TRAVEL

Song-and-dance-man and M.C. extraordinaire, Bob Rohr, (professional name, "Bob Marcus") is resting easy at home and hearth after a recent European USO tour with comic, Roscoe Ates.

Bob stepped into the night club spotlight out of KTOP, Topeka, Kansas, and he's been delighting supper-club and dance audiences ever since. Bob was M.C. with Doris Drew, currently top singer with the "Tennessee Ernie Show." He toured with the "Shep Fields" show and filled feature bookings in a variety of night clubs across the country. He played the "Jim Moran Show," and did a week at the Oriental Theater in an act with Jim Dimas, another ex-Columbian.

Bob takes his cues from the former Pat Sweeney, a very lovely Columbia College Miss a couple of years back.

Winner a few years ago of a local amateur contest, Shecky Greene was booked into Chicago's Club Silhouette. His one week appearance there was the beginning of a spectacular, quick success in show business. Shecky's current booking is at



Shecky Greene

Chicago's very fashionable Chez Paree, where he shares billing with Nat "King" Cole.

Shecky has made a number of Television appearances and will likely be seen in top TV "guest" shots during the coming season, when they can be fitted into his very busy nite club-theater schedule.

Winner of the coveted Blue Book Award for the best M.C. of the year, Shecky Greene has the nation's critics and public in excited applause. The Dial cheers loudest.

TOP SPORTSCASTER HOWARD MENDELSON IN AS PUBLICITY DIRECTOR • WBBM-TV

Howard Mendelsohn (on the airways, Howie Myles), known to millions of the nation's sport fans for his long stint as "play-by-play" announcer on network telecasts of the Roller Derby, steps out of the talent end of TV and up as Director of Publicity for WBBM-TV and CBS's Central Division. A new job, with a liberal sprinkling of glitter too, for the very



capable Howie. In connection with appearances on WBBM-TV, Howie's current publicity projects include Eddie Fisher, Dorothy Collins, Nat Cole, the Billy Williams Quartette, Patti Page and Cab Calloway.

Succeeding "What'll You Have," Russ Hodges at the Roller Derby mike, Howie did three network (ABC) shows a week for Lucky Strike, Blatz Beer and the Army Recruiting Service. For quite a time the Roller Derby was probably the most televised sport on the tv networks. On his Derby "Intermission Show" Howie had Jan Murray, Marilyn Maxwell, and Susan Hayward among others of the entertainment worlds' glamour. Howie Mendelsohn started out at the 1st listed station in the US, WAAA, Red Wing, Minnesota. The appropriate 1st step for such a bright career.

PRESS WILL FEATURE AL HERNANDEZ'S STORY

The Al Hernandez story reads like an Eric Ambler novel of adventure and intrigue with strong overtones of show business glamour. (Capt.) Hernandez is currently the commander of an army radio broadcasting station operating as part of the Psychological Warfare Branch Reserve program at Camp McArthur, California.

Later this year the American Weekly will bring to millions of readers a "cloak and dagger" story by top feature writer, Kay Dixon. It will report "Secret Expedition ISRM," an exciting true adventure drawn from Al Hernandez's exploits as an Army Counter Intelligence Officer in World War II.

After leaving Columbia College, Al produced radio and TV shows for leading mid-west agencies. Returning to the west coast he produced tv commercials for several program packagers. Al, who has produced and starred in musical and variety shows, is working now on a foreign film service with worldwide branch offices.

COLLEGE FRIENDS TOGETHER AT UNIVERSAL PICTURES

"When other friendships are forgot, ours will still be hot..." For Pete Berkos, Sam Reynolds and Sam Berland a close friendship as students has carried over into the professional world. The Columbia three, (plus one making four with Pete's charming wife, Sally, who also graced Columbia's "campus"), are all very successfully together at Universal-International Pictures.

Pete Berkos, his most recent picture assignment according to Variety Magazine, "All That Heaven Allows," is Sound Effects Editor at UI. The major studio's program for Pete began in the prop department, proceeded to the Production department, then to the film editing section, and, to his present position. The next step to come is feature picture editing and Pete hopes to climax all this by directing his first picture. The "Dial" won't be satisfied with less than an Academy Award.



Reynolds, Berland and Friends
Pete and Sally Berkos

Sam Berland got to UI and Hollywood by way of the stage, network TV talent and 18 months of recall as an army reservist. Sam did a number of TV dramatic features on WGN-TV including "Mystery Theater" and "They Stand Accused," before being called to New York and a part on "The Hands of Mystery" show for the Dumont network. Winner of two "best actor" awards in New York, he came to Hollywood, where he's currently doing a lead in "Mr. Roberts" at the Sartu Theater while doubling as boss-man of UI Picture's lumber and supply department.

The "Dial" awaits more details on errant son, Sam Reynolds.

Pete, the two Sams and Sally recently formed a small dramatic group to present religious plays. In a contest with groups from all the western states, the ex-Columbians took the four top awards. Natch!

INTERMISSION

Briefs on Alumni at curtain time.

Elsa Walden '51—with the Theater Guild in New York has appeared in a number of Broadway plays. Rudolph Holland '13—formerly an instructor in Speech at St. Olaf College, a recent visitor to the College. Marilyn Stevens '54—with the Chicago and road companies of the revived "Good Night Ladies." Vito Mariani '54 up as producer-director at WEEK-TV, Peoria, Illinois. Jim Dimas '48 and Genevieve Roback '49—Mr. and Mrs., have closed out their stage tour. Jim's managing one of the "Village's" leading auto agencies. Mary Krieder '37—at Mason City, Iowa Community Theater. Look for Wayne Adams '52—to do the TV call on stock car races now that spring is here.

LESLIE YOUNG HEADS WCUE's CONTINUITY DEPT.

Continuity Director at one of the nation's top independents, WCUE, Akron, Ohio, is Leslie Young (Mrs. Leslie Lund), one of the College's most attractive grads. Up from WEIR, Stuebenville, Ohio, where she was Continuity Director and Woman's program chief, Leslie has also been featured on a number of her own programs. Currently she does shows on WAKR-TV, Akron and WXEL, Cleveland, with a big fashion show on the Akron station several times a year. Leslie also is a guest lecturer at Akron University.

JACK HICKEY HAS TO BE NIMBLE AND QUICK

For to keep up with his schedule is quite a trick. In the few years since he has left college, Jack Hickey has crowded in an impressive list of successes in radio, television, motion pictures and the stage. You've probably heard Jack Hickey, actor, on a score of radio network shows with such stars as Charles Ruggles, Gale Storm, Audrey Totter, and many more, on Mutual, NBC and CBS. Jack also does a regular stint of TV commercials for many of the major ad agencies.

A leading performer in the Coast Theater Guild productions, Jack has had top roles in "Detective Story," "Bell for Adano" and "Front Page," among many others. He appeared in "Above and Beyond" and "Merry Widow" for M.G.M. and the "Will Rogers Story" for Warner Bros.

Jack is much in demand as an M.C. and singer and has appeared at Palm Springs and many leading night clubs. Many grads will remember Jack, his guitar and his many western music specialties in College productions.