

1955

## Alumni Dial

Columbia College Chicago

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## Man About Muncie: Lee Allerton

Lee Ward Allerton, at WLBC-TV, Muncie, Indiana, is keeping one of those schedules which could only happen to a man who has made himself indispensable to a television station.



LEE ALLERTON

He is director for both radio and TV for WLBC, an assignment demanding enough upon any ordinary gent. But Lee also does three daily radio shows, "How Well Can You Spell," "This 'N That," and a world newscast, plus a daily TV segment, "The Sport's Eye" and a weekly TVer, "Teen Canteen." In addition, when a football or basketball game comes along, Lee does the play-by-play.

But his abundance of energy is not without its special rewards. Lee has received the distinguished Service Award from Amvets and a special award for outstanding broadcasting service by the Muncie Junior Chamber of Commerce. Recently, he served as radio-TV coordinator for the March of Dimes campaign.

## BILL ELLIOTT BASKS IN BALMY BAHAMAS

One place where radio is still the unquestioned king of the airwaves is amidst the balmy breezes of the Bahamas. And it's there, in Nassau to be exact, that alumnus Bill Elliott is one of the favorite personalities. A recent highlight for him was coverage of the visit of Princess Margaret. His duties run the gamut from news and announcing classics to serving as "Buckaroo Bill" on the "Station ZNS Jam-boree." The variety in programming



BILL ELLIOTT

causes Bill to write that his duties are "probably more rewarding than a similar stateside job."

Bill had been appearing in dramatic shows on WIOD, Miami, and on the stage of Studio M, Miami's most professional theater group until he joined the staff of ZNS in August, 1952. He's getting a tremendous kick out of the feeling of usefulness that mike-men get on the islands. "Many people," he says, "on small islands hereabouts have no other contact with the world except through their battery sets."

## columbia college

# Alumni DIAL

Chicago, Illinois

## HI AGAIN!

This is a special profile issue of ALUMNI DIAL, although it includes word-snapshots from all directions including some front view and a few from hindsight.

The main idea, however, is to report the whereabouts and what-abouts of some of Columbia's alumni in the hope it will help you hearken back to old friendships and possibly inspire you to send in a thumbnail report on yourself. Please send a picture, too.

## CHILDS UPPED TO CBS EXEC POST

The short but rapidly rising career of Peter Childs, is testimony to how, in broadcasting, a combination of training and experience can be parlayed into rewarding results.

then produced musical shows, pop and classical, on WEAW and WNMP. WBEZ

After completing his studies, Pete started modestly about six years ago as continuity writer for WBAA, the Purdue University radio station. Today he is the CBS Television Network's sales service manager for the states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Nebraska, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Missouri. Important milestones in his long (yet short) road were when he left Purdue soon after he got there to take a job with WSBC, Chicago, as continuity writer and announcer. But this brought him acting assignments on WIND, WJJD, WBEZ-FM and WEAW. At WBEZ, the Board of Education station, he quickly rose to producer-director. That experience persuaded WIND to appoint Pete director of special educational shows, handling several programs. He moved, then, to Evanston where he announced,



PETER CHILDS

asked him to come back as production manager where he stayed for two and a half years until the CBS appointment came.

## TALKING ABOUT WHEELS. . . .

Ed Silver's own ability and energy has enabled him to work up to one of the fastest-paced and exciting assignments in sports presentations. Hired as an announcer for the National Roller Derby, Ed has elevated to the post of the Derby's executive manager. He supervises all promotion and operation of the traveling unit. And the places this unit travels! So

far, Ed's taken his troupe-on-wheels to England, France, Spain and Hawaii. Currently, he's checking schedules for the next boat to Japan. Ed still handles all broadcasting assignments for the Derby. He's worked on WGN-TV, Chicago; WITV, Miami; WDEF-TV, Chattanooga; KTLA, Los Angeles; KGO, San Francisco; KLEE, Houston; WHAS, Louisville; and KGMB, Honolulu.

## CONNOR IN NEWS

Tom Connor reports his recent appointment to the news directorship of WTVH-TV, Peoria, Illinois, during the same week the station upped its power to a formidable 214,000 watts. Placed at Connor's disposal were the facilities of CBS News-film and AP Photofax, providing pictures from all over the world within minutes after they were taken. Tom moved into the job from radio station WIRL, Peoria. Before going to Peoria, he was an actor on WGN-TV and performed in commercial films at Wilding Studios in Chicago.

## JOHN VACCA SLATED FOR NEW TV SPOT

John Vacca went to Washington recently to testify before the FCC — and he really had his heart in it. He was an expert witness in a hearing to determine whether KOSA, Odessa, Texas, should be awarded a license to open a TV station on Channel 7. If the FCC says yes, John is slated to become a top exec of the TV operation. Currently, he's program manager of the radio station and secretary of the Odessa Broadcasting Company. Before the tie-up with KOSA, he worked across the street, so to speak, as news director of KECK, Odessa, after a period with the NBC Central Division in Chicago. Happily involved in Odessa's community affairs, John, his wife and two children are settled in their own home in Odessa.



John Vacca



## WATERMAN SWITCHES

Charles H. Waterman, Jr., working under the professional name of Charlie Waters, is getting settled at KRBC-TV, Abilene, Texas, after a recent switch from KTXL-TV, San Angelo, Texas.

At KTXL-TV, Charlie had moved up to chief announcer and had his own weather show, kiddie show and news shows besides doing 33 live commercials a week. Weekly, he emceed a variety show and teen-age program. At KRBC-TV, a brace of shows is being developed, bound to keep Charlie's weight down.

## ED WEISS HITS MARK IN EDUCATIONAL TV

Edward B. Weiss has located at Ames, Iowa as producer-director for WOI-TV, the distinguished educational station of Iowa State College. There he has already chalked up an outstanding series of accomplishments in educational telecasting.

Ed served as producer-director of a series entitled "Of Men and Ideas," for the Ford Foundation Fund for Adult Education. The series starred great teachers of various universities. For the same group, he produced "The Long Voyage," a dramatic reading series now appearing via kinescope on educational stations throughout the nation. This series won first prize awarded by Ohio State University's Institute for Education by Radio and Television. On the CBS "Morning Show," Ed recently directed a remote telecast from West Branch, Iowa, of the Herbert Hoover 80th birthday celebration.

## INDIANA SCHOOLS KEEP BETTY BUSY

As busy a young lady as can be found in Indianapolis is Betty Barth. Betty is radio-TV consultant to the Indianapolis public schools, which involves producing two weekly TV series on WISH-TV and WFMB-TV. In addition she supervises the operation of city-owned radio station WIAN. As though that weren't enough for two shoulders, Betty also produces five weekly shows on local commercial radio stations. Before becoming the veritable Miss Educational Broadcasting in Indiana, Betty was producer-director at WOI-TV, Iowa State University, Ames, where she produced every type of show from heavy dramatic presentations to simple news shots.

## Belding Joins C. of C. in Montana

A word spoken on the radio goes out into space and might land anywhere. So might the man who says it. Lee Belding, who put an extra charge into radio at Billings, Montana, where he rose to station manager of KXLO, has wound up as manager of the Billings Chamber of Commerce. He interrupts his duties as "the big wheel in town" long enough to do a weekly personality program and daily newscasts. Immediately after completing his studies at Columbia College, Lee was hired as program director with some announcing duties at KXOX, Sweetwater, Texas. From there he worked his way progressively northward to KBIX in Muskogee, Oklahoma, and KGRH, Fayetteville, Arkansas, until he landed in Billings as chief announcer and program director. Within a year, he was appointed station manager.

## RAPCHAK BECOMING A JAZZ FIGURE

A growingly popular figure in Chicago radio is alumnus Mike Rapchak, chief announcer on WAAF. Closest to his heart (and to the hearts of more and more music fans) is his daily jazz show, 11:05 to 12 noon, which he describes as "a gently swinging thing." Last year Mike was selected to appear at Soldier Field as guest disc jockey to help introduce Perry Como, Patti Page, Julius La Rosa, Sarah Vaughan, Ray Anthony, Ralph Marterie and others in the greatest popular music show ever presented. Even to London, Mike's fame is spreading. "Melody Maker", the noted British music publication, recently said some complimentary words about his tasteful jazz show.



Mike Rapchak

## BILL WASHINGTON HITS IN ST. LOUIS

Bill Washington's story is a phenomenal success story of a staffer on a young but phenomenal radio station, KATZ, St. Louis. Within four months after Bill joined the staff, his earnings had doubled and he was a radio star in town. At Columbia, we've been picking up piecemeal reports of both the happy alumnus and the station. A long letter from Bill didn't help much. For it was devoted entirely to singing the praises of the College and the encouragement he received in overcoming some difficult professional problems as a student. Since this newspaper is devoted to how great the alumni are — not how great the alumni think the school is — we modestly decline to quote from it. But thanks, Bill.



Bill Washington

**Let's Hear From  
YOU!**