

Many Hours of Practice Go Into Thirty Minute Program

By BILL BILLINGSLEY

To paraphrase Edgar A. Guest's famous remarks on residences, "It takes a heap of people to make a radio show."

And when the radio show happens to be the Vaughn Monroe Camel Caravan, CBS national hook up presentation, the people can really stack up. If you could have looked into Guion Hall around 4:30 Saturday afternoon when the rehearsal for that night's show was in full swing—with musicians, engineers, vocalists, timbers, script-girls, arrangers, bus drivers, announcers, and untold numbers of other assistants and relatives of the Monroe Troupe jammed on to the stage and spilling over into the auditorium—you might have used the words of one of the Guion ticket takers, "Where are they going to put Monroe?"

As it turned out, the usher's fears were ungrounded since not only Monroe, but his female vocalist Cece Blake, and the Moon Maids as well found their way onto the stage.

When we arrived in the company

of the six lovely Vanity Fair winners and their escorts, the rehearsal was in a glorious confusion. Banked across the back of the stage were some fifty assorted musicians, slumped listlessly behind their music stands, attired in a loud variety of sportswear and slacks, all tooting, scraping or blowing idly on their instruments. Through the resulting din, the radio technicians were lining up their sound equipment on a table across the left side of the stage, paying out wires and tying in microphones. A tall, thin engineer with a pencil moustache added one more ampoulette to the stack and the table sagged dangerously.

To the right of the stage sat the four Moon Maids, with their folding chairs drawn huddle-fashion around an arranger who waved his hands wildly over a score and sang "Meow, Meow, see here my pretty kitten." At the left voice microphone stood Cece Blake, nervously removing and replacing her reading glasses as she repeated over and over three lines from "Little Bird."

Through it all hulked the great man, pacing back and forth, his left hand filled with score sheets and scripts and his right hand occupied with a ham and egg sandwich one of the assistants had just brought in. From the wings Grady Elms motioned to Monroe to discuss the introduction of the beauties. Replacing the papers on a music stand, but holding forcibly to the sandwich, Monroe went off into the wings.

Meanwhile the musicians had been brought out of their daydreams by the chief arranger, who was standing in for Monroe at the head of the band. Clamping the earphones on his head and giving the down beat, he guided the orchestra off into "I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm." They were scarcely four bars deep into the song when a technician stopped them to move a mike back a few inches. Undaunted, they took the beat again and got almost to the chorus before the arranger held

them up to unflatten a sax player. Once more they were away and this time seemed to be just about through it when the timer waved his hands wildly and informed the troupe they were seven seconds off. This apparently innocent news threw the entire script and music staff into a panic and after a hurried conference around the script for a padding of the previous commercial they were over the hump and away again.

With the preliminary sparring out of the way, they whipped through two more solos and a Moon Maid-Monroe combination of "Powder Your Face with Sunshine" before taking a break. Coffee had arrived from some mysterious outer source and they went for it like sharks after fresh meat. During the ensuing confusion, Monroe located another sandwich and Operations Ham and Egg took up again. Meanwhile the arrangers and vocalists, aided by the time-keepers, seized the moments silence to compare notes and revamp schedules and scores.

The babble of voices had just settled down into a steady hum when it was erupted into a chorus of shouted greetings by the entrance of two men in business suits, carrying bags. The taller of the two was greeted like a combination of a long lost fraternity brother and a hero returned from the war. He turned out to be Hugh Conover, announcer for Monroe's CBS show and a master of ceremonies and "bon vivant" of unlimited ability.

Warmly embracing half of the girls seated near the stage, taking a few playful kicks at the musicians and greeting Monroe with a "Hiya Dad," he went into a narrative of his long and dangerous trek across the Texas wastelands from Dallas. The cast as a group sent up hoots of protest and disbelief of these wild stories and a slip-horn player in a turtle neck sweater said he just didn't feel that Conover was telling it exactly the way it happened.

Monroe cut in to say that since there was now an announcer on the premises they could get into the rehearsal. Then came the revelation that all the practice that had preceded was just to smooth out the rough spots and that the

full length rehearsal was yet to come.

So with a fanfare from the brass section and a fade-up from the rest of the band, Conover rose on his toes and purred into the mike that this was the Camel Caravan, starring Vaughn Monroe. Slouching before the microphone with his hands in his pockets, chin tucked back against his chest, his lips hardly moving, the deep Monroe voice intoned "I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm."

Forty five minutes later Conover finished the concluding commercial and gagged it up by coughing and clutching his throat. The timer gave the cut signal. The Moon Maids and the male chorus gave the Coke Cases they had been standing on a resounding kick and Cece Blakey folded her glasses and replaced them in the case.

Back in their covers went the instruments and the timers took their stop watches over the script table for one last check. The librarian gathered up his scripts from the stands and the arranger followed him, making marks with a pencil and trailing the wire from his earphone along behind him. There was a general movement toward the exits and the engineer clicked off his toggle switches, watched the meters fall back to zero, and picked up a "Please Do Not Disturb" sign from the Tampa Terrace Hotel that had been hanging from his amplifier. "Let's snatch 20 winks" he said.

At 6:15 that night the troupe was faultlessly costumed and moved snappily through their numbers. Conover was exuberant in voice and the whole show went off like clock work.

As the audience filed out after the performance, we heard two roommates talking. "Those people are really good. They went through that thirty minutes smooth as silk. I wonder if they practice very much?"

Brother, if you only knew.

Movies Scheduled To Be Shown To 305th Composite

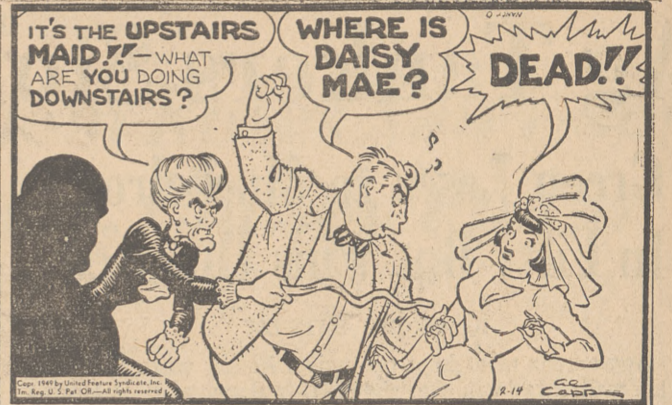
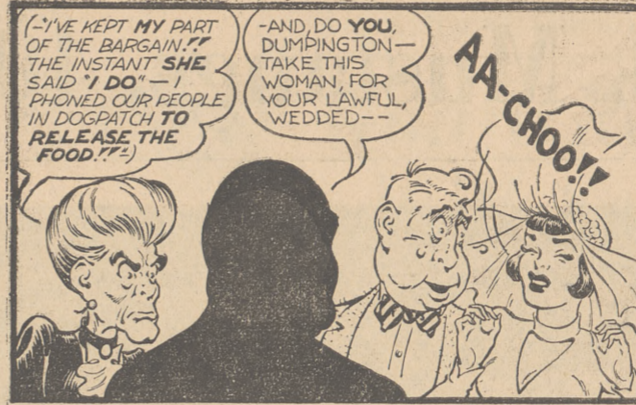
Three movies will be shown at the meeting of the 305th Composite Squadron meeting at 7:00 p.m. February 14, Room 301 Goodwin Hall.

Discussions will be centered upon the possible formation of an Air National Guard squadron on the campus.

Single-engine fighter pilots, aircraft maintenance officers, weather forecasters, adjutants, operations officers, and other officers with associated specialties will be needed for such a squadron.

Enlisted reserve airmen may find excellent opportunities for service in the Air National Guard.

Reserve officers who are interested in a return to extended active duty or those who wish to qualify for additional MOS's may obtain information at the meeting Monday night.



RELIGION

(Continued from Page 1)

leges Public Relations Association. Dr. L. B. Reavis, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Paris, Texas has been scheduled as the special speaker for the First Baptist Church of College Station.

Rev. J. B. Gleissner, pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Bryan will give the Religious Emphasis week talks at the local Catholic Church.

Dr. Carter Boren, chairman of the departments of Philosophy and Religion at the University of Houston has been selected to speak on Monday and Friday nights at the A&M Christian Church. Dr. W. W. Wasson, associate professor in the same department as Dr. Boren will speak to students Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

The regular pastor of the A&M Christian Church, Rev. James M. Moudy, will speak Wednesday evening. These services will be conducted in the chapel of the YMCA because of the construction at the site of the new Christian chapel.

The Jewish services will also be held in the YMCA in the cabinet room. The pastor of the First Baptist Church in Houston Dr. Boyd W. Hunt, will conduct a special Religious Emphasis Week revival at the First Baptist Church in Bryan.

Rev. Eric N. Hawkins, the pastor of the Ascension Lutheran Church of San Antonio will speak to students of the Lutheran Church throughout the week. Rev. Hawkins is also director of Home Missions for the Lutheran Augustana Synod. Regional Advisor of the Gulf Region Lutheran Student Association, and is a member of both the Board of Regents of the Texas Lutheran College at Seguin, and the Board of Trustees of the Lutheran Welfare Society of Texas.

Floral School Will Begin February 21

Up-to-date and specific information on florists' crops and a review of supporting research work will be given at the Texas Florist's short course to be held here February 21-22, A. F. DeWorth, chairman of the course, said.

The personnel of the short course includes nationally known authorities in the field of floriculture, including A. F. DeWorth, C. G. Milne, H. D. Thiers, L. J. Tolle and Andrew C. Yezak, all of A&M. The floriculture section of the Landscape Art Department is sponsoring the course.

ATHENS, Feb. 14 —(AP)—The Greek army today reported a strong, new attack by Communist guerrillas against the town of Florina in Western Macedonia close to the Yugoslav border.

The Battalion CLASSIFIED ADS

Page 4 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1949

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HELP WANTED—The Department of Veterinary Pathology & Bacteriology has a position open for an experienced medical laboratory technician to work in the Pathology Laboratory. Graduate preferred. Permanent position. Contact Dr. V. B. Robinson, Veterinary Hospital. Phone 4-1239.

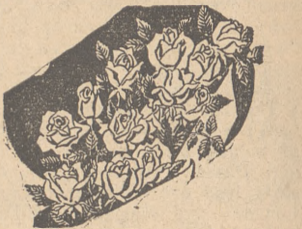
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Schumann Elected To Head Newmans
William L. Schumann was elected president of the Newman Club for the spring semester at a club election held last Monday night. Schumann is a junior AH student from Sugarland.

Other officers elected at this meeting were as follows: vice-president Charles Drapela; corresponding secretary, Walter Barry; social secretary, Don Stigall; treasurer, Dennis Hranitzky, and historian, Dave Blakelock.

AIR SEARCH FAILS
LIMA, Peru, Feb. 14 —(AP)—A two-day air search has failed to uncover any traces of a DC-3 airliner missing on a flight from Tingo Maria to Huanuco, Peru, with 16 persons aboard.

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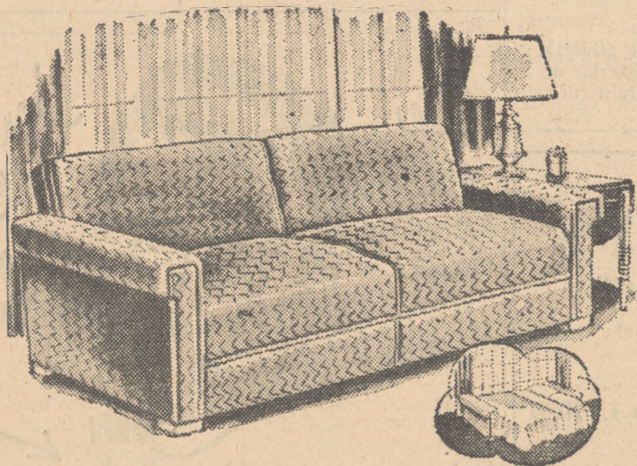
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