

IN ONE EAR

By ART KELLY

Fibber McGee Cast Bravido Success On Versatility



Say what you will about radio programs, few top-ranking shows on the air today have as versatile a company as the cast of the NBC-WHAM Fibber McGee and Molly broadcast.

Although Fibber (above) and Molly celebrated their fifth full year of programs on April 11 with the same format as their first broadcast, the shows have never lacked variety. Whimsical Vitas and the complications of Fibber's existence might have been exhausted long since as topics of humor, but for the wide range of talent on the program.

Molly heads the list for versatility. She's not only Fibber's lovable Irish spouse, but the little girl, "Teeny"; her wisecracking grandmother, Mother Wheedles; Mrs. Wraybottom and giggling Geraldine as well.

Bill Thompson, who is best known as "The Old-timer," Horatio K. Boomer and Nick Depepus, has a repertoire of 40 other dialects which he can do with equal ease. He plays an excellent Irish cop and several weeks ago surprised the gang with his skill as a Spanish linguist.

Hal Peary, best known as Gilderleeve, vies with Thompson for his talent as an Irish cop and has a half dozen other characters which he can present on the program.

Isabel Randolph was one of Chicago's best known dramatic radio actresses before she joined the Fibber crew as "Mrs. Uppixington." Occasionally she adds an extra part to her Tuesday stint, varying from telephone operators to baby-talking salesgirls.

My congratulations to Fibber McGee. His program is one for the entire family.

Hats Off To Rochester's Al Sigl

My nomination for the most popular citizen in local radio-land is Al Sigl. Al is doing a great job on the air with his Blood Donors League and deserves a resounding vote of thanks for his tireless and never-ceasing efforts in the interest of humanity.

No Place Like Home Says Benny

The Jack Benny home in Beverly Hills combines many attractive features that Jack and his wife, Mary Livingstone, have seen in the homes of friends. For example, George Burns and Grace Allan had a special wing of their house added for their youngsters. The Bennys built something similar for Joannie. Also, Robert Taylor has a complete gymnasium on the terrace above the master bedroom of his home. So, too, has Jack. But the swimming pool within three steps of the bedroom, a sound-proofed den and study and a 15-foot high icebox for midnight snacks are all ideas of Jack's very own!

Plane Comes In Hardly

The world is getting very small for Rochester's Joe Turbi, the Spanish-born concert pianist, who stopped in at the Kraft Music Hall recently en route from Helena, Montana, to Valencia, Spain. Turbi now owns an airplane, which enables him to fill more concert engagements. It was his occasional appearance with Crosby which prompted him to buy the plane. "Every time I was scheduled for an appearance with Bing," he said, "I seemed to have to make a long trip in a short time." He holds the record for KMH guest appearances.

Charlie McCarthy Joins U. S. Navy

Bergen and McCarthy are in the navy now. Sailors, who are ardent fans of the famous NBC duo, dubbed two target practice airplanes at the San Diego base "Bergen" and "McCarthy." McCarthy, of course, is the dummy ship, flown by remote control for naval marksmen to pump full of bullets. "Bergen," needless to say, is the control ship which tows the dummy.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

Schools Now Aid Health, Guard Safety of Children

"I wonder what is the next subject to be incorporated in the curriculum in the name of education? is a question frequently raised by Mr. and Mrs. Parent in reference to a subject life Health and Safety. Thirty or forty years ago little attention was given in school to Health and Safety for one reason, at least, because it was not so necessary as it is today. In those days the majority of children went to school for only a few years, and then off to work. Now, pupils are in school from the age of six or seven to seventeen or perhaps twenty-five, which means a long indoor life which is not particularly healthful for growing children. In former days most youngsters obtained plenty of wholesome exercise by reason of the chores and jobs that they were called upon to perform. But all this has changed. Now social and economical conditions and child-labor laws make it



Library Aid—A corner of the well-equipped library at the Academy of the Sacred Heart. Steady growth of libraries is fostered in the elementary as well as the high school units.



Auburn Debaters—Widely known for their capabilities as those debaters of Holy Family High School, Auburn. They are (from left): Robert Nelson, John Rogers, Charles Hennessy, Donald Donnelly and Cass Joseph Rooney.

Impossible for children to get physical exercise through work. Therefore, needed physical training must be provided through formal and regulated methods. Again, years ago there was but a relatively small number of children in school. Now, the number reaches millions. MUST FACE PROBLEM. Safeguarding the health of children is a serious problem which some one must face. The only question left is: Who is that person or agency that has the responsibility? If the health of the community cannot be left to haphazard individual responsibility, it must be assumed by some public agency. In other words it is a social responsibility. If this be true, then the school can rightly be expected to do its share in the training and safeguarding the health of the children, the future citizens of the state. The school must do its share because, in the words of Pope Pius XI, "Education is essentially a social and not a mere individual activity."

Why should the health of all the children be safeguarded? The answer is simple: to keep them physically fit—fit for whatever work they must perform now and later on. It is a proven fact that a child who suffers from a physical weakness learns much more slowly than one who enjoys good health. The policeman on the corner, the man at the desk, the teacher in the classroom, the nurse at the bedside, and the mother in the home—all need their health to do their work well. In fact they can not get work without health. It is a "conditio sine qua non." There is another reason. A sound body is an important adjunct for a wholesome spiritual life. It is true that some of the saints had to put up with a weak body and poor health. But it is also true that some of the saints, e. g. St. Bernard and St. Ignatius, regretted that through excessive penances they had injured their health. If health is not an asset for the spiritual life, why is it that practically every religious order of community demands physical health of its candidates? Health is a valuable asset, even in the service of God. Many a moral break-down can be traced to a physical break-down. It takes a strong will to bear infirm health with patience and sweetness. Father Faber said that few are improved spiritually by sickness. "The coming of the automobile with its accompanying speed has

Father Barrett Writes Of Poetry For Young Folks

In a recent letter to a student poet like Shelley, Wordsworth, Keats, or even Milton. It does not matter that they did not know God, anymore than that the brush has to love the paint. God painted through them. So from them we learn the secret. "The Power is that I can be enthusiastic about the same things as excited the emotions of Mary, Port of the Magnificat, St. Ambrose, St. Bernard, St. Gertrude, the poet of the Sacred Heart Chalice, Father Hopkins, Alice Meynell, because our sources are the same. I can write about the Saints—as Perpetua and Felicitas as though I lived with them. I call the Saints 'Our Contemporary Ancestors.' But I must learn the Secret to make them live. "Verse-writing disciplines the student to achieve grace and force in words and images, and this enhances the personality. All can learn to write good verse—few rise



Editors at Work—Real journalists are these from Our Lady of Mercy High School whose prize-winning material is written, edited, typed and run off by the students themselves.

devoid of form. The trouble with most Catholic poets is that they lack the Secret—the power and sources belong to them, but they have not disciplined themselves to the resources of a valid technique. "Some of those who possess the secret are Ellen Duggan, Roy Campbell, Sister Maria Stella—a St. Joseph nun who seems the best American Catholic poet, Sister Mary and physical education of which parents and teachers and perhaps social workers should be earned. The danger lies in making health an end in itself. If any people is certain to be unhealthy, it is they who are fretting about their health, who are "health-minded." Important physical processes (e. g. sleep and digestion) function best when people are entirely unconscious of them. Health is not an end in itself, but a means. It is a condition for living like a human being. Health and holiness are closely related. They both connote soundness and sanity. Therefore, children should be taught only those things and more important still, should be helped to acquire those habits which promote health. But in the name of sanity, they should not be made "health-minded."

"Another very grave danger is that naturalism which nowadays invades the field of education in the error of those who with dangerous assurance and under an ugly term propagate a so-called sex-education, falsely claiming they can forearm youth against the dangers of sensuality by means purely natural, such as a foolhardy initiation and precautionary instruction for all indiscriminately, even in public; and, worse still, by repeating them at an early age to the occasion, in order to accustom them, so it is argued, and so it were to harden their against dangers. "Such persons grievously err in refusing to recognize the inherent weakness of human nature, and the law of which the Apostle speaks, fighting against the law of the mind; and also in ignoring the experience of facts, from which it is clear that particularly in young people, evil practices are the effect not so much of ignorance of intellect as of weakness of a will exposed to dangerous occasions, and unsupported by the means of grace." There is another danger in health



Prize-Winning Band—Aquinas Institute Band has earned a name for itself among high school bands throughout the state. The trumpet section shown getting in extra practice for competitions, concerts and parades.

Extra Services Rendered To Children's Advantage

In providing thorough scholastic work for Catholic school children, the system also encourages certain services and benefits which are to the children's advantage. Public agencies and private agencies cooperate in making attendance at school a little more pleasant and effective. In accordance with law, indigent children are provided with free textbooks by the agency under which they are registered. The school in this case furnishes religious books. In one or two schools free books are provided by the parish in an increasing number of schools, a rental plan for text is in vogue. The undernourished child receives milk in the morning, other

at the expense of the parent where possible, or in a limited way through provision made by the City or Town. A child who is in need of eye glasses but whose parents find it difficult to provide them, may make use of the Danforth Fund, which grants loans or gifts as the individual case demands. Effective health service is adequately granted in most cities and towns of the diocese and supplementary programs are carried on by local and county branches of the Tuberculosis and Health Association. In Rochester children enjoy the facilities of the Rochester Dental Dispensary and have are provided by the Board of Education to take some 500 children

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