

Radio Class Lends Talent To Soap Opera Serials

By MARJORIE PIERCE

The radio field is already bursting at the seams with serials, but that is not enough for the radio production class who, under the supervision of Marvin Krenk, instructor in speech, has been turning out serial-scripts the past few weeks.

"We've done the usual run-of-the-mill things, such as quiz shows, and melodramas before, but this is the first time we've ever tackled anything like this," said Mr. Krenk.

Mass-Appeal

The serial, it seems, is a mass-appeal production, not entertainment (in the strict sense of the word), literature, or drama. Advertising is its function, and it helps dispose of such commodities as hand lotion, muscle-builders, and either soap or corn flakes. They are divided into three different types, the kiddie-action serial, the housewife tearjerker and the blood-curdling mysteries.

The kiddie serials, those adventure-packed dramas that crowd the air waves from the time school is out until bedtime, are written according to a certain formula. There are two types: either the hero (or heroine, as in the case of "Little Orphan Annie") is of uncertain age (but a little on the adolescent side), or he is a grown man, something on the type of the Lone Ranger or "Hi-Yo Silver!" fame. There is absolutely no love interest in the kiddie serial, all of which seems a trifle on the narrow-minded side.

Several of These

Several of the students have chosen this type for their stories with the result that some rather astonishing scripts have been handed in. "Texas Tommy" for example, a rip-roaring drama by Muriel Stevens, concerns a young boy and his horse Pogo (as in pogo-stick) and his various mix-ups with half-breed Indians in the Texas Panhandle. (clap, clap . . . "Deep in the Heart of Texas.")

Then too, there is "Calliope Chris, the Circus Wonder Boy" by Mary Elizabeth Earl. Chris, a tight little rope walker, (excuse please) and his two lion-tamer friends have a life filled with subterfuge and adventure.

Tearjerkers

The tearjerkers, the housewife serials, are prevalent from early morning until school gets out,

and run five days a week. There are about thirty or forty programs running regularly now.

Of the student scripts of this type, "Life's Challenges" by Elaine Lee and "Through the Shadows" starts with: the most representative. "Life's Challenges" has for its theme-song the touching ditty, "One Fine Day" from "Madame Butterfly," while "Through the Shadows" starts with:

"Through darkness and pain
A struggle in vain
I'll seek a path
Through the shadows."

(amen)

These serials, too, have a pattern which must be filled, that of a woman, with which the housewife can identify herself, with troubles in which she can picture herself. The minute one of the troubles is solved, another must start, for if ever the heroine begins to lead a simple, uncomplicated, untroubled life, you might just as well take it off the air.

Mysteries

And then there are the mysteries, those blood-chilling programs which one hears after the children are safely tucked away in bed. Mr. Krenk refused to divulge any titles of this type (probably because they were too gruesome to be printed in the "Emerald"). The mysteries usually run once a week, and may either be a continued story, as those which feature those intrepid fellows, the Green Hornet, and the Shadow, or they might be about some famous detective (Sherlock Holmes, for example), and his adventures. One case is presented in each program, complete with baffling clues, climax, and the bringing to justice of the culprit and the consequent re-proving that "crime does not pay." Finis 'til next week.

While none of these dramas have actually been presented over the air, it is not only possible, but probable that they soon may be. And who knows? Maybe soon all young America will be quivering with excitement over the adventures of Calliope Chris and Texas Tommy, or their tender-hearted mothers may be sympathizing with the heroines in "Life's Challenges," or "Through the Shadows."

The student body of Cornell university includes one "genuine American"—an Iroquois Indian—and natives of 46 foreign countries.

Miss LaDuke Stars in Recital

By CAROL GREENING

Combining surety of touch with vivacity and vigor, Leone LaDuke gave a finished performance of Beethoven's Sonata, opus 31, Number 2, in her junior recital last night.

Truly a mistress of the keyboard, Miss LaDuke made Bach's "Prelude and Fugue in B-flat minor," pianistic in quality, and encountered no difficulties in the technically intricate fingerwork of Liszt's "Sospiro."

Also on the program was Marie Rogndahl, who, though only a freshman in music, displayed unusual maturity and range in her rendition of "Cara Nome." Freshness and purity characterize her soprano voice, and she soared easily up to the E above high C in that ever-popular aria, which was greeted with considerable applause from the audience.

Wonderful double note work was shown by Miss LaDuke in Chopin's "Ballade in F major," a number into which she threw herself with real power and understanding of Chopin.

Other works on the program were: "Depuis le jour" by Charpentier; "Mazurka" by Chopin; "Impromptu," by Chopin; "Minute" by Hopkins; "Rhapsody in F-sharp minor" by Dohnanyi.

Miss Rogndahl's encore was "Ave Maria," by Schubert. Her accompanist was Emery Hobson.

While only 2 per cent of the total United States population is college trained, this group comprises 86 per cent of listings in the 1940-41 "Who's Who in America."

Navy Okays Oregon's V-1

Word has been received here from the bureau of navigation in Washington, D. C., by Dr. Donald M. Erb, president of the University, that the University's special curriculum for training of naval reserve cadets under the V-1 program has been accepted by the navy department. The new curriculum includes a certain amount of mathematics and physics and physical education classes in addition to University requirements for major courses.

The program has been extended to include high school seniors who have satisfied University entrance requirements so that they now can enlist in the V-1 program, which is for freshman and sophomores from 17 to 20 years of age. According to notice received from the navy it will also accept 80,000 men each year under this classification.

Sophomore men wishing to enter the course will take a competitive examination at the end of their school year. Division of the enrollees will be as follows: 25,000 of the men will be assigned to Class V-5, naval aviation, and given flight training; 15,000 will be transferred to V-7 for officers' training and allowed to graduate from college; the remainder, assigned to V-6, will assume active duty in the navy.

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