

The FICTION Corner

STATION IDENTIFICATION

By JOHN H. ROSE

"PLEASE take a seat along the mezzanine, sir. The next tour of Radio City begins in approximately five minutes," piped the charming hostess as she handed the tour tickets to Bob Johnson.

Only two days remained of the week for which Bob had saved all year. Vacation in New York—gosh! It had been wonderful . . . Coney Island, Grant's tomb, Statue of Liberty, Central park . . . meals in Greenwich village at the "Captain's Bell," and the night in Chinatown. Only two things remained on Bob's schedule—a night ride on the Staten Island ferry and this tour of Radio City.

Bob was 25, tall, blond and tagged as the rugged type by the hometown bobby soxers. After his graduation from Mascoutah high school, he had gone to work at Carl Mayhew's filling station and garage. Everyone in the Illinois town said that Bob was a born mechanic. Although Bob had been to nearby St. Louis many times, he always had longed to come to the big city. Now his dream visit had blossomed into reality, but it was drawing rapidly to an end. In 36 hours, he would be on the Pennsy speeding westward once again.

"But it sure was worth it," thought Bob, as he joined the group of 14 or 15 people which had gathered in the mezzanine foyer of the RCA building. He only casually noticed the girl who seemed so deeply engrossed in the showcase full of modeled hands of eminent NBC conductors. He had been looking at the unusual display only a few moments when the petite tour guide called.

"Please step forward to the elevator, folks. I am Helen Barry. We're happy to welcome you to Radio City. In the course of this tour, we shall visit the studios, show you the inner workings of radio and conclude by attending an actual broadcast of the Fred Waring show.

"Now I think it would be nice to know your names, and especially where some of you are from. We'll let you begin, sir," she said as she pointed to the portly man in the vanguard of the little group.

"We're Mr. and Mrs. Albert Fisher from Cedar Rapids, Iowa," from the dignified gentleman.

The others dutifully chimed in. "Elmer Petersen, St. Paul, Minn.," "Eloise Miller, Altoona, Penn.," "Bob Johnson, Mascoutah, Ill.," "Mr. and Mrs. Mark Brown and sons, Gary and John, Chicago."

"Anne Strong, Vandalia, Ill." Partly because she came from nearby Vandalia, but more because of the soft, resonant quality of her voice, Bob turned quickly to inspect the young lady thus identified. As he looked into her self-confident, smiling face, he remembered the young lady whom he had noticed while waiting for the tour to begin. Her round face with its even, pleasing features made him think of Illinois, somehow. It seemed that she was symbolic of the wide, sweeping prairies of his home state—almost a breath of refreshment in the crowded elevator.

As the group emerged from the cage after a rapid ascent, Bob crowded ahead among the others until he reached Anne Strong.

"Miss Strong," he stammered, "I overheard you say you were from Vandalia. I'm from Mascoutah, and I've been to Vandalia lots of times."

"Yes, Bob, I heard you say you were from Mascoutah," answered Anne casually, as though she and Bob had been friends for years.

"Are you enjoying your visit here in New York?" she continued.

"Oh, you bet!" replied Bob. "I'm going back tomorrow."

"If you will step this way, please, we will enter the sound effects department," interrupted the guide at this point, and Bob didn't quite finish his sentence.

"Please observe, and I shall demonstrate how sounds are simulated with the most simple devices," the girl continued as she entered a glass-enclosed booth.

"For example, to create the sound impression of a trotting horse, we simply take these half coconut shells and clap them together sharply.

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gether. Each seemed to be deeply engrossed in his own thoughts.

"Now we shall televise some of you," the guide announced, and you can observe how you might appear on a television broadcast."

"Would you like to be first, Miss," she asked, indicating Anne.

"Oh . . . I guess so," replied Anne, stepping forward.

As he watched her enter the enclosure under the glare of the lights for the television view, Bob again was aware of the undertones of feeling created by Anne's vibrant personality. He couldn't help but note

Simmons is the closest to Pericles, the \$66,000 colt who won one race. If Simmons wins only one game, Ben Chapman will absorb at least one keg of cyanide.

Simmons, Wakefield and Bob Brown are three of the higher investments. Wakefield has been no part of a bargain at his price tag, while neither Simmons nor Brown so far has drawn a chance.

But rookies on their way to major-league fame are scarce. Last year the Cardinals had only one from a big crop—Jim Hearn, a pitcher. The Giants caught a find in Jansen—the Dodgers in Robinson, to mention two of the best.

Few outsiders realize the size of a farm crop. The Dodgers had something like 500 budding phenoms at Vero Beach—the Giants over 400 at Sanford, Fla., and the Cardinals over 400 at Albany, Ga.

From the 1,200 young ball players gathered at these three locations, the Dodgers, Giants and Cardinals would be highly pleased to have 30 future big leaguers. Some vital statistics have made it one out of 200.

So the percentage of young rookies and promising yearlings who make good is about the same—few and far apart.

Successor to Joe Louis? In the boxing game about five out of 5,000 or possibly 10,000 make good. They have been looking around for a good young heavyweight to take the place of Joe Louis for six years. Six years and no answer. Not an echo. But Walter Friedman tells me that there is a good young Irish heavyweight named Ray Stevens working out of San Francisco who may be the one.

"He's six feet two, weighs 205 pounds," Friedman says. "I know of one offer of \$20,000 and another of \$30,000 which have been refused for his contract. They won't even listen to \$50,000. He's a good boxer and a good puncher. He can knock you down with a short punch. He's only 23 years old.

"Give him a break, and you might be the first to boost the next heavyweight champion of the world." Stevens is hereby given favorable mention. And he doesn't have to be too good.

Duffers Lead the Parade Too many golf writers are writing about the Nelsons, Hogans, Mangrums and Demarets in place of the duffers and the average golfers who compose at least 95 per cent of the game.

There would be no golf if it were not for the duffer and the average golfer. The few left couldn't afford to keep the courses in condition. They couldn't keep the manufacturers going.

And without the duffer and the average golfer, golf crowds would be under 500, and there would be no teachers and not many caddies. The stars would be playing for \$500—not \$10,000.

Above all, we love and admire the flaming spirit of the duffer who each year is going to remove at least five or maybe 10 strokes from his game.

I was talking about the duffer with Al Ciuci, the Fresh Meadow pro who has taught so many thousands, including star professionals, for so many years.

"What," I asked, "are the chief faults the duffers or the average players have? And what, by the way, is an average golfer?"

"An average golfer," replied Ciuci, "is one who shoots around 100. That's a good average. Some are around 90 or 92. Others well above 110. We can call it 100 and be safe."

"What is the most common fault?" I asked.

"Slicing," said Professor Ciuci. "There are many hookers, of course, but many more slicers. Slicing is largely due to not turning the body enough, to taking the club back outside the line of flight and bringing it into the ball from the outside.

"The club head should be taken back slightly inside. It should be brought down inside with the club head aiming for a target slightly to the right, not whipped from the inside to the inside.

"Most slicers aim to the left of the course in order to allow for the slice. I've seen them do this by the thousands. A slice usually costs from 30 to 40 yards. Take enough turn and let the club head travel slightly to the right.



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1—1945 G.M.C. No. 523 Logg. Truck, 16,500 Packed Rear end, 900/20 rubber with good Standard Dual Axle Logg. Trailer. Price \$3,000.

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Early Radiant Heating The Romans used a type of warming device which was the forerunner of modern radiant heating. They built fires in the lower levels of the famous Roman baths and built flues of hollow tile under the floor and up the walls. The warm air and smoke in the walls and floors thus warmed the building.

Alabama's Cotton Industry Total investment in cotton industry in Alabama is more than three fourths billion dollars. More than one million people are engaged in some phase of the industry.

Oil Burners in Use With the sales of oil burners in 1947 exceeding \$20,000, the total number of oil burners now in operation in the United States is over 3,500,000.

Blasting in Marshes Often water depth in marshes cannot be raised by raising the level. Sometimes blasting produces the desired result.

Famous Seaport Houston, Tex., became a major seaport after its famous ship canal was built.

Pearl Harbor Fishing Rights Acquisition by the United States of private rights as to fishing in and about Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, occurred June 28, 1921.

Wolf Hunting With Plane Wolf hunting is likely to be more successful if one or two airplanes can be engaged to act as "spotters."

Bloodroot Bloodroot is a member of the poppy family, and ranges widely over the East. Its root oozes a red juice when cut, whence its name.

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GARAGE One of the largest and best known in Calif. Located in center of bus. distr. Standard car age. Insurance etc.; 24-hr. serv. Service dept. can handle any emergency. Large bldg. on main cor. Price \$175,000 incl. real property. Call J. H. Thompson. Investment will be furnished. A real investment. Rigid investigation invited on all properties.

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GARAGE bldg., 19x60 ft., on two highway shop tools, new re-cap outfit for 1947, 1948, 1949, two houses, three and six rooms; good location; priced cheap; terms, C. E. Hunt, Fossil, Oregon.

OPPORTUNITIES NEAR MONARY DAM Grocery store and stock, living apartment attached. In modern, small house on property rented at \$25, bus stop, gas pumps. This place has a good income. Will pass a rigid investigation. \$1,000, half cash, cash balance around 2 finished cabins rented at \$50 each. Duplex; owner lives in one, other rented at \$45. Laundry, toilets and shower rooms. Room for expansion. On highway, \$12,500, some terms. Call on heavy-traveled highway, living apartment and garage. \$12,500, some terms. Momer C. Hayes—Irrigon, Ore.

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32 John Deere combine with 2 headers, 25 John Deere Hercules motor mounted in front being reconditioned. Clifford Lowrey, Mount Hope, Wash.

Case Dismissed Judge: "How does your wife irritate you?" Husband: "Why, she keeps saying: 'Hit me! Go on, hit me, and I'll have you hauled up before that bald-headed old reprobate judge and see what he'll do with you!'" Judge: "Prisoner discharged."

Oregon Territory More than 250,000 square miles were added to the United States when the territory of Oregon was established by congress in 1848, 100 years ago.

Mayflower Stone Popular tourist resort in England is Plymouth which contains the Mayflower stone, commemorating the spot where the Pilgrim Fathers embarked for America.

When Baking Pies It is not necessary to grease a pie tin, for the pastry contains so much shortening that it cannot stick to the tin when it is baked.

Red Cross Relief Disaster relief operations were carried on by the American Red Cross in 45 states and Alaska last year.

Highway Transportation in N. Y. In New York state 54 per cent of all communities depend solely upon highways for transportation of goods. Dairy products, of great importance to the economy of the state, move almost entirely by truck.

First "Round the World" Flight Wiley Post and Harold Gatty made the first "Round the World" flight in the "Winnie Mae", in 1931. The distance was 15,488 miles, and the time was 8 days, 15 hours and 51 minutes.



Anne Strong recognized that the remote flutter of excitement within her was due to this young man rather than the wonders of radio

ly. The plop, plop, plop comes through your radio at home just like the trotting hoof-beats. If we wish to make your mouth water with the sound of frying eggs, we need only crinkle bits of cellophane before the microphone.

"When we wish to reproduce telephone calls, we use the filter microphone. . ."

The voice droned on and on, but Bob had lost interest in radio. He was infinitely more aware of the slim young lady at his side. Her arm had brushed against him as the group crowded forward to watch the sound demonstration on the other side of the glass partition, and Bob was shaken by the tremor of excitement aroused by this brief contact.

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"Yes, Bob, I heard you say you were from Mascoutah," answered Anne casually, as though she and Bob had been friends for years.

"Are you enjoying your visit here in New York?" she continued.

Anne was considered the best beautician in Vandalia, so she was quite confident that she would experience no difficulty in finding work in New York. But for a few weeks, she planned to "see the sights" before going to work. Only this very morning, she had decided to see Radio City.

As they left the sound effects' room and moved along the corridor toward the television demonstration, Bob and Anne walked silently to-

Because Someone Has Faith in Me

Grace Noll Crowell

BECAUSE someone has faith in me I cannot fail though all the way Winds up the hill. My staff in hand, and cheerily, I can but fare me forth each day With right good will.

Because someone has faith in me I need to keep my heart quite true, My own faith strong, My vision clear, that I may see, Undaunted by what meets my view, And sing a song.

God help me sing the song, I pray, God keep me clean and strong to go, Clear-eyed to see The untrod, upward-winding way, For fail I cannot; one I know Has faith in me.

