

Boyle's Column

Radio Writing Is Still A Long And Terrible Labor

By HAL BOYLE
NEW YORK, (AP)—Wyllis Cooper is helping a lot of kids through college—and he doesn't like it.



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- SPORTSMEN TOILETRIES.

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RUDY'S
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His doctor tells him he shouldn't get excited but every time Cooper thinks about how the students are making him his blood pressure goes up like an Arizona thermometer in August.

Here is how enterprising young scholars across the land capitalize on Cooper, author of "Quiet Please," a weekly half-hour dramatic show on the Mutual network:

"They write in fan letters to the network saying they enjoyed the program and asking for copy of the script. When they get it, they stick in a few 'the' and 'the' said, and turn it into their English classes as original themes."

"Most of them don't even have energy or brains enough to change the names of the characters."

Radio Too
What angers Cooper and other bigtime radio writers even more than this collegiate petty larceny is "the plagiarism extant in radio itself today—by people on small, isolated waffle-iron stations who ask for scripts of your shows, then change them only slightly and broadcast them as their own."

He said many broadcasters were beginning to combat this "idea thievery" by curtly refusing most pleas for program scripts.

Normally genial except when people are trying to get a free hitchhike from his creative labors, Cooper is a short, chubby, friendly man of 48 who specializes in radio drama, an art which he thinks many writers now abuse "by trying to cut their stories in the same old corny pattern."

It is lonely, exacting work, this framing phrases tuned to give a picture to the ear rather than the eye.

"My definition of a writer is a man who hates to write," Cooper said.

He speaks with bitter knowledge. For a quarter of a century he has been putting clean white sheets of paper into his typewriter and pulling them out again all broke out with high-priced prose.

He wrote "Son of Frankenstein" and several "Mr. Moto" scripts for the movies, but he prefers radio writing. He originated the NBC

"Lights Out" mystery series and also wrote scores of NBC "Army Hour" scripts in wartime.

18 Shows Weekly

"In 1935 I wrote 18 shows a week for a year—all original stuff," he said. That required an output of better than 30,000 words every seven days, each conceived in pain and delivered in anguish.

Cooper now writes in a small Greenwich Village hotel room he rents for the purpose. He recalled how a friend once tried to help Bob Benchley out of the periodic creative paralysis all writers get at times.

"He told Benchley to sit down and write the word 'the' on a sheet of paper and the rest would be easy," Cooper smiled. "Benchley tried it. He typed out 'the' and sat staring at it for two hours. Then he typed 'hell with it'—and got up and left."

Paper Price May Cause Rate Boost

VANCOUVER, B. C., Dec. 17 (AP)—Increase in the price of newspaper may be passed on to the reader in the Vancouver area, Donald Cromie, publisher of the Vancouver Sun, said today.

Including the \$6 a ton increase announced yesterday by Powell River company, Ltd., Cromie said newspaper prices have risen 93 per cent since February, 1943, without a change in subscription prices.

"We are finding the cumulative effect too great a burden to carry without some sort of relief," he explained.

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Long Wait For "War Bride"

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 17 (AP)—World War One Veteran Klondike C. Batterlee, 51, is as excited as any younger Yankee about the pending arrival from England of his "war bride"—the girl he met in Liverpool in 1918.

Batterlee's betrothed, Miss Amy Graham, 50, a Chester Church worker. They met 29 years ago across a store counter while Batterlee was an army priv.

Amy will be the veteran's second war bride. The American soldier then had asked Miss Graham's closest girl friend—Ethel Tenfold—to be his wife and together they returned to the United States. The two British women kept their friendship alive through the years by correspondence. When Batterlee became a widower two years ago he continued the letter writing. Last

April, he said, he asked Miss Graham to be his bride.

The British woman is due in New York City December 27 and in Portland on New Year's eve. Her passport designation is "war bride."

Daniels Awarded Friendship Bowl

TACOMA, Dec. 17 (AP)—A silver "Friendship" bowl, symbolic of a decade of leadership in the north-west's plywood industry, was presented yesterday to E. W. Daniels, president of Harbor Plywood corporation, Hoquiam.

The presentation was made by Arnold Koutonen of Olympia, president of the Douglas Fir Plywood association, at a meeting of the industry's management committee. Daniels, chairman of the committee which includes 36 Oregon and Washington firms, also is president of the board for plywood research foundation and one of three Washington state men serving as directors in the National Association of Manufacturers.

USBR Project Study Asked

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 (AP)—To settle the question of whether reclamation projects are going to return their cost to the government, Rep. Horan (R-Wash.) asked the house today to order a study of all projects.

He is the author of a resolution calling for such an accounting survey.

"I would like to end once and for all time," Horan said, "the frequent charges that reclamation projects

will not return to the government the money spent for their construction. The charge frequently is made that we are wasting money on such projects and I feel certain that a study of the payout features will show that these projects will return to the government the cost of their construction."

Horan said in a statement that Chairman Taber (R-N.Y.) of the house appropriations committee was

having such a study made of various reclamation projects but Horan wants the study to include all reimbursable projects.

PETITION

PORTLAND, Dec. 17 (AP)—Petitions proposing a city manager form of government for Portland are planned by the American veterans committee for the next city election.

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1 Max Factor Quartet—Pan-Cake Make-up, Lip Brush, Rouge and Lipstick . . . **\$4**

2 Yanky Clover Trio Toilet Water, Sachet, Dusting Powder —by Hudnut . . . **\$3**

3 Pink Clover Cologne Harrier Hubbard Ayer fragrance—blossom-sweet . . . **1¹⁵**

4 Evening In Paris—Perfume, Cologne, Lipstick, Talcum, Powder, Rouge . . . **\$5**

5 Compact By Pilcher Gleaming metal leak-proof case in smart styles . . . **2⁹⁵**

for All

6 Rainbow Stationery 120 sheets, envelopes in four soft pastel colors . . . **\$2**

7 Smooth-Writing Pair: Vogue Deluxe iridium tip pen & 3-way pencil to match . . . **2⁹⁵**

for Kiddies

Little Sis is hostess to six with these gay, metal Tea-Time Sets . . . **1⁵⁹**

for the Home

Electric Freight! Engine, 7 cars, 28 tracks, switch, transformer **24⁹⁵**

1 A Practical Present! Shiny chrome Iron with a handy heat Indicator **3⁹⁸**

2 Give her this new 2-slice Electric Toaster. It's a sleek chrome beauty. **3²⁹**

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Oh—so big! Dolly's skin is baby-soft and tots can wash her . . . **3⁹⁸**

Here's a gift for Mom! A new chrome waffle iron with a Heat Indicator **6⁹⁵**

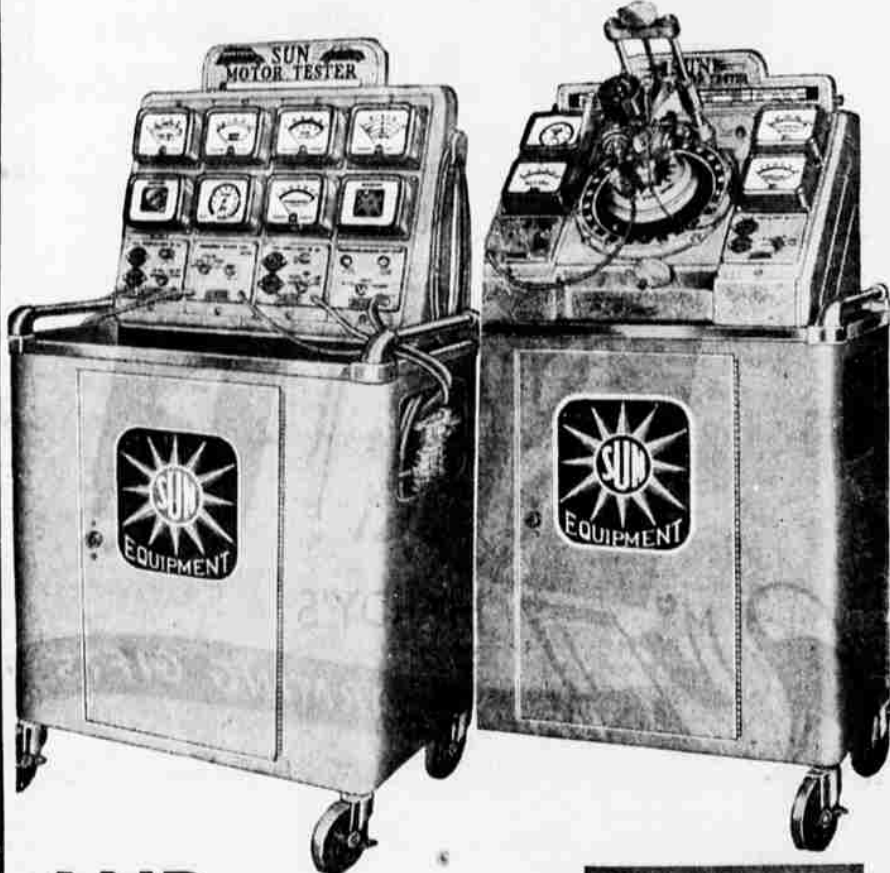
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