



THE WHB RADIO ORCHESTRA

Whose lilting dance music floats out to receptive radio listeners all over the nation

## “Meet” the Radio Voices from Kansas City

A Bit About Some of the Popular Artists  
Who Broadcast from WDAF and WHB

By ERLE H. SMITH

**A** BITTER war is on in the ranks of radio listeners of the “Heart of America” city—Kansas City. Unconsciously and yet not unwillingly, whole groups of these radio partisans have fallen into clans. And in many homes, radio dealers say, arguments have grown so heated that it has been necessary to install a receiving set for each radio fan in the household as a final effort to lure the dove of peace back to a permanent roost on the domestic antenna.

For it develops that the listeners-in of Kansas City in common with those of many other cities have their favorite ether performers just

as decidedly as theater goers have their stage favorites. And when WHB and WMAJ are on the air at the same time and Sallie craves to listen to the Sweeney orchestra, Bill is out

of luck for that lecture on wave traps over WMAJ. So Bill has his receiving set, be it ever so humble, and Sallie has hers and there is peace in the domicile of the listeners and, I think, a smile on the face of the radio dealer.

LOCAL RADIO FAVORITES  
IN KANSAS CITY

**O**UTSTANDING among the radio favorites of Kansas Cityans are the *Kansas City Star's* “Nighthawks.” The regular “Nighthawk” entertainers, known from coast



NELL O'BRIEN

Who gained great popularity at station WHB. She is a soprano

to coast and Gulf to Lakes, are the Coon-Sanders orchestra and Leo Fitzpatrick, Radio Editor of *The Star* and "Merry Old Chief" in charge of the midnight frolics of the "Nighthawks" in the grill of a downtown hotel. The "Merry Old Chief" also appears before the microphone in *The Star's* studio as "R. A. Dio" in regular weekly minstrel programs.

The "Nighthawk" programs were among the first attempts at midnight broadcasting on a regular schedule six nights a week and have been running full blast every night except Sunday for

Ranking second in popularity with Kansas City listeners in the ranks of the WDAF entertainers is the Radio Trio, composed of Carson



THE RADIO TRIO

Often heard from WDAF, at Kansas City. Carson Robinson (left), Steven Cady (center), and Harry Kessel

Robinson, Steven Cady, and Harry Kessel. Mr. Robinson is a pianist and whistler, if not of note, at least of great popularity, and has written several "blues" song hits and chimes in with his effective baritone when the trio is singing ensemble. Mr. Cady has an excellent

tenor voice, and Mr. Kessel is the trio's "lead" and usual soloist.

Assisted by "R. A. Dio," the trio gives a popular program weekly over WDAF, which, judging from the hundreds of letters pouring into the office of *The Star's* radio editors, indicate nation-wide approval.

The station of the Sweeney Automotive and Electrical School, WHB, claims to be the first broadcaster west of the Mississippi River to employ a regular orchestra. George C. Parrish, known among music critics of the Southwest as one of the most able and versatile pianists in Kansas City, is director of the orchestra. The popularity of Mr. Parrish's orchestra is



LEO FITZPATRICK

Radio editor of the *Kansas City Star*, WDAF, and "Merry Old Chief" of the *Star* "Nighthawk Frolic" programs

nearly two years. Listeners-in, picking up the "Nighthawk Frolic" and writing or otherwise communicating with the WDAF station are enrolled on the membership roster of the "Nighthawk" organization and awarded membership cards. The roster includes thousands of names.



ELIZABETH R. HINTON

A popular soprano at station WHB



**JOE SANDERS (left) AND CARLETON COON**  
Leading lights of the Coon-Sanders "Nighthawk" orchestra who regularly play at station WDAF. Mr. Sanders is a pianist and composer. Mr. Coon is the trap drummer. Both have excellent voices

proved by the great quantity of enthusiastic letters that are received by the Sweeney station weekly from all sections of the western hemisphere.

The Sweeney orchestra is probably one of the most popular dance combinations with Kansas City listeners-in. Far-away owners of neutrodyne and super-heterodyne sets nightly notify the Sweeney station that they are concentrating on bringing in WHB "strong" to provide music for dancing. And then, Mr. Parrish and John T. Schilling, the WHB announcers, get their heads together and release some of the "steppin'est" music that travels through the ether from what the local boosters call the "Heart of America" city.

Miss Nell O'Brien and Mrs. Elizabeth Ranson Hinton, sopranos, are popular radio stars appearing exclusively before the microphone of WHB. Both have exceptional voices, and nights when they are on the programs are certain to be busy ones for the telephone operators at the Sweeney switchboard, for its "Please have Miss O'Brien sing" this and "Please have Mrs. Hinton sing" that.

And so it goes with the radio listeners of Kansas City and the surrounding territory.



**JOHN T. SCHILLING**  
Announcer at WHB, at Kansas City,  
the Sweeney Automotive School

They have their radio favorites and they keep the telephone wires warm telling the two large broadcasting station operators just what they desire to hear.

*A REPORT FROM THE RADIO PILGRIMS*

***A**BOARD the RADIO BROADCAST COVERED WAGON, in charge of Captain Jack Irwin, will be a feature of this magazine for December. Captain Irwin relates his impressions of radio life in the Great Lakes district. His "Log of a Radio Hobo" is worth reading.*