

RADIO PLAY USES NUMEROUS TRICKS

Experiments and Study Show Which Sounds Broadcast Best.

San Francisco.—Experiments and study of the technique of the radio drama, conducted systematically over a period of months on the air and in the laboratories of the Pacific coast, have created a craftsmanship that promises interesting development of this form of theatrical entertainment.

Like the motion picture, the radio play has given birth to a new art, as the principles of a successful microphone performance are distinct—unlike those involved in the writing or presentation of a stage or screen production.

Shakespeare was a natural writer of radio "scenarios," Carl W. Rhodehamel of the staff of the General Electric station, KGO, says western producers have found. But there are so few authors or playwrights whose efforts can be utilized without almost complete reconstruction that attempts to adapt popular or classical plays are diminishing. Instead, western studios are bending their efforts toward the development of the radio playwright, recruiting principally from amateur ranks.

What's It All About? For definition of broadcast drama, Rhodehamel has accepted this: "The radio play is a series of sound pictures printed on a film of time." He conceives the patron of this art as "an eavesdropper listening in on real life."

The producer's task, Rhodehamel believes, is principally to "synchronize the rhythm of the three kinds of sound which are the ingredients of the radio drama—music, speech and accessory noises." Failure to correlate their rhythm results dismally, sometimes humorously, as in the first experiment of "interlapping," when more than one kind of sound was transmitted at a time.

In this early test music was placed behind accessory noise and speech with the result that scores of "fans" wrote in complaining that a Los Angeles station was constantly "butting in." Trying again, rhythm of music, accessory noises and speech were synchronized. The listeners then understood that the producers were attempting to tell the same story in more than one way. There were no complaints this time about the southern station.

Beating of horses' hoofs, ringing of a door bell, sounds of a scuffle, revolver shots, heavy breathing, hissing and clatter and sputter of a starting locomotive are only some of the innumerable "accessory noises" that go into the broadcast play to give it intense realism. These and music, the most highly organized character of sound, raise it from dialogue to a high form of drama with all the thrills and color of a stage success.

Pacific coast producers have decided that 35 minutes is the maximum time the ear of the radio auditor can be kept. So with only an hour and forty-five minutes for presentation of a three-act play, a great part of its plot must be unfolded through suggestion.

To test power of music to sustain interest and preserve continuity of plot, an experimental drama was given in which the climax came in act 1. Reversal of dramatic order seemingly did not forfeit interest of patrons. Many wrote in they had followed the play to the end—furthermore, liked it.

Trick of the Trade. In another experiment a virtual lesson in geography and natural history of China and Tibet was crowded into every paragraph of a play, "The Yangtze River." This offering went over as a dramatic presentation with few criticisms based on its hyper-abundant textbook phrases.

Like the movie, radio has made effective use of "tricks of the trade" in the mechanics of the new art. KGO has magnified the sound of a quizzing insect to obtain the roar of a wild animal; breaking of toothpicks to picture trees falling in a forest; breathing through a lamp chimney to provide a terrifying windstorm, and talk into a barrel to get the sound of voices in a cave or tomb. Swishing a rag around in a mop pail resulted in a realistic impression of a storm at sea, with waves striking against the side of a boat.

Double Tragedy Ends in Romance for Survivors

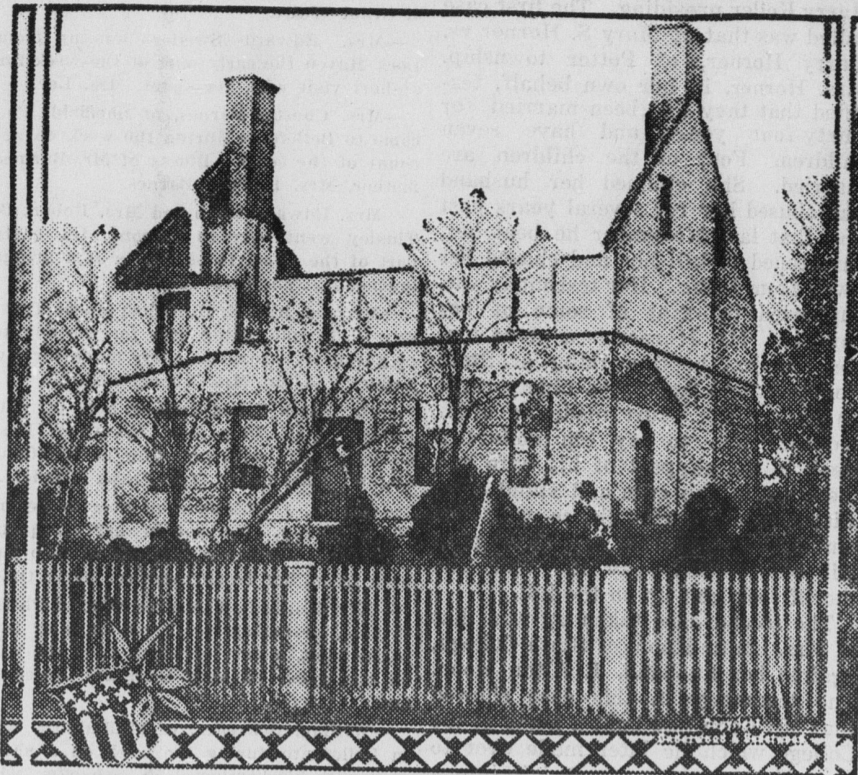
New York.—A romance that began last March in a double tragedy has ended in the marriage of William Dempsey and Mrs. Robert Noonan, in New York city.

Dempsey's wife and Mrs. Noonan's husband were found dead in an automobile near Paterson, N. J., last spring. Mrs. Dempsey's baby daughter, who was found crying beside the car, said Noonan had shot her mother and then killed himself.

The aftermath of the tragedy brought the widow and widower together. Friendship that culminated in the marriage was the result.

—Get your job work done here.

Early Home of Washington



Hayfield plantation near Alexandria, Va., the home of George Washington before the Revolution, lost its old English boxwood garden which was laid out by George Washington. Miss Evelyn Smith of New York city has reproduced the garden at Amawalk, Westchester county, N. Y., as a memorial to her father, Maj. Orlando Jay Smith. Photograph shows the old place in ruins, the old boxwood hedge being removed.

Washington and Old St. Paul's Chapel

Colonial atmosphere has been scarce in lower Broadway for many years, but St. Paul's chapel, the oldest existing church edifice in the island, has brought back some of the grace and simplicity of the days of the Revolution. The famous place of worship has been redecorated and renovated to conform with the fashions prevailing in 1764-6, when St. Paul's was built by McBean.

When the British evacuated the city after the surrender at Yorktown nearly all of the decorations that indicated an English affiliation were torn out of the chapel.

Every royal emblem, every reminder of the connection with Great Britain, was removed with the exception of the three-feathered badge of the heir apparent of the English throne surmounting the pulpit. The heir apparent then became George IV in 1811. Through some neglect his emblem was left in its original place and for years it was the subject of curious questions. This heraldic badge of the prince of Wales survived many periods of decoration when other ancient embellishments were removed.

Now many of these decorations have been returned to their former positions. But the British "atmosphere" has not been brought back. Only the Colonial fixtures used when George Washington was President of the United States have kept their places in the old church. It was there that he worshipped for many years. His four-sided pew, always interesting to patriotic pilgrims, is on the Vesey street aisle. It is marked by a large-sized painting of the shield of the United States of America. Opposite, on the Fulton street aisle, a similar pew, used by De Witt Clinton when he was governor of New York, is identified with a painting of the New York shield.

It was in St. Paul's that George Washington received holy communion after his inauguration in 1789 as



St. Paul's Chapel, Broadway, Fulton and Vesey Streets, the Oldest Church Structure in Manhattan.

first President of the United States. The old organ which played on that occasion was sold to Marblehead, Mass.

While President Washington was living in New York he made a practice of riding his horse every Sunday morning to St. Paul's, which was not then in the bustling city. In those times Wall street was the extreme end of the business section of the town and Fulton street was out in the country.

During the years while New York has been steadily, rapidly moving uptown, St. Paul's has stood as a foothold of comparative antiquity. Buildings have shot into the sky, frowning down on the little church, until today it nestles in a teeming canyon at the feet of man's towers of stone and steel.

Old St. Paul's has been involved in much of New York's history. It was not the first church in Manhattan; the Dutch church of St. Nicholas in the fort at the Battery preceded it by 120

years. There was also a French church. But St. Paul's knew the Tory Patriot struggles preceding and during the Revolution. At its back, in what became Chatham street and then Park row, had been the jail, the bride well, the gallows, covered with a Chinese kiosk; the pillory, stocks and, in a little group of trees, the whipping post (according to Martha J. Lamb).

The war drums have sounded many times since the cornerstone was laid in 1764. Troops have marched past to battle with a song on their lips.

The entire interior has been renovated. In the process some ancient relics came to light. One was a massive chandelier that formerly hung in the middle of the church. This chandelier, found in sections in the attic over the organ loft, was fitted with modern improvements and replaced to its former position. Ecclesiastical vessels, documents and small furniture were unearthed from the litter of more than a century.

In its simple dress of former years St. Paul's, the only remaining church edifice in Manhattan with a history begun before the American revolution, is expected to reawaken in lower Broadway Colonial associations preserved chiefly by Bowling green, Frances tavern, the last home of President Monroe, and the architecture of City hall.

Started Washington on Pathway to Fame

In the English colonies in America the presence of the French west of the Alleghenies was considered a trespass of one nation upon another's land, says the Detroit News. The notion was that the French, having slipped into what did not belong to them, ought to be turned out. So some influential Virginians, two of them brothers of George Washington, secured a grant of 500,000 acres of land on the Ohio river, with the purpose of selling it. These associates called themselves the Ohio company. Before taking any decisive steps it was thought best to go through the empty form of warning off the intruders. This would make a national question of it. A summons to depart was therefore drawn up and George Washington, a young Virginia planter, wholly unknown to fame—Thacheray calls him "a road surveyor at a guinea a day"—was chosen by Governor Dinwiddie as messenger. The young soldier promptly accepted the trust, and on October 30, 1753, he set out from Williamsburg for the far frontier and undying fame.

Marshall, in his "Life of Washington," says it was the Ohio company that brought on the war known as the French and Indian war, in which the Indians were allies of the French.

Discouraged Liquor

In "George Washington, Country Gentleman," is the following statement: "Some of the contracts (entered into with hired employees) contain peculiar stipulations. That with a certain overseer provided: 'And whereas there are a number of whisky stills very contiguous to the said plantations, and many idle drunkers and dissolute people continually resorting to same priding themselves in debauching sober and well-inclined persons the said Edd Violett doth promise as well for his own sake as his employees to avoid them as he ought.'"

Washington's Maxims

Be not apt to relate news if you know not the truth thereof. Think before you speak. When a man does all he can, though it succeeds not well, blame not him that did it. Let your conversation be without malice or envy. Let your recreation be manful, not sinful. Speak no evil of the absent, for it is unjust. Show yourself not glad at the misfortune of another though he were your enemy.

CALIFORNIA BIG COTTON PRODUCER

Harvests Greater Crop Now Than Virginia.

Sacramento, Cal.—For 75 years the Golden state has been trying to become known as the land of cotton, and at last its efforts are meeting with a success as striking as were some of its early failures.

Figures of the federal Department of Agriculture disclose that for several years California has produced more cotton than Virginia, the oldest cotton-producing state; that California's average yield per acre is the highest of any cotton-producing state, and that California acala cotton sells at a premium on the cotton market of the United States.

It was not always thus. In 1851, when farmers were still throwing away their plows to join the rush for California gold, T. O. Selby received some cottonseed from Mississippi and planted it on his ranch just outside the city of Sacramento. Three years later the Sacramento Union acknowledged on its editorial page the receipt of "a lot of beautiful cotton" grown on the Selby ranch. It quoted Mr. Selby as saying that only the high price of labor prevented California from becoming within a few years "one of the heaviest cotton-producing states in the republic."

Under the lash of World-war development Imperial valley's cotton production expanded prodigiously and tempted other districts to try growing on a commercial scale. The first important San Joaquin valley production was in 1918 and expansion was so rapid that in 1925 more than half the state's cotton acreage was in this region. Last year the state had an acreage of 172,000, the average yield being estimated at 351 pounds per acre as against 162.3 pounds for the United States at large. The estimated total production was 125,000 bales.

State legislation has set aside certain counties where only acala cotton may be grown, to protect growers from the seed stock deterioration that comes from intercrossing. A rigid and persistent quarantine is preserved against the boll weevil.

Fights Right of Dogs to Destroy Unpunished

Oklahoma City.—A revolt against dogs' rights—acquired during the feudal days of England—is in progress in Oklahoma.

The common law principle of scienter, which was established when the canine pets of Norman oppressors were permitted with impunity to wreak destruction on Saxon flocks, has been passed down intact to the statute books of Oklahoma—a state not yet twenty years old. The principle means simply that a dog owner is not responsible for the depredation of his animals if he is not aware of their mischievous natures.

It was one thing, declare assailants of canine prerogatives, for dogs to destroy feudal flocks which were mere articles of exchange, and something else for them to slaughter modern turkeys that have a commercial value of around 50 cents a pound during the holiday season.

With the aim of curtailing some of an Oklahoma dog's privileges, C. C. McDonald of Wagoner county is seeking to have the state Supreme court pass for the third time on a case involving this principle.

The litigation started in 1920 when fifteen turkeys belonging to McDonald, were killed by dogs.

Angry Boy Blows Up Companion With Bomb

Minot, N. D.—Revenge inspired a fifteen-year-old boy to send an "infernal machine" to his fellow high school student, Clarence Stromwood, which resulted in an explosion which severely injured the latter. The boy was held by the police, who refused to divulge his name, to face federal charges. The "machine" was composed of dangerous explosive chemicals of the lad's own invention, he told the authorities. Stromwood, the lad said, "played dirty tricks on me."

Warns Women

San Antonio, Texas.—Wives of army officers stationed here have been warned by Brig. Gen. Paul B. Malone of the bad effect on their husbands' career of the drinking of liquor at dinner parties.

Wed 60 Years, Still Live in Same Cabin

Marion, Ill.—Just east of Williamson county live Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Absher, in a log house constructed before the Civil war. They recently celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary and are now beginning their sixty-first year of married life in the same house. Mr. Absher is one of the few men now living who accompanied General Sherman on his march to the sea. In the Civil war, and the memories which he now recalls of that four years of strife include his capture by the Confederate forces and long weeks passed in the Libby and Salisbury prisons.

This veteran has been a farmer all of his life and is still an unusually active man for his eighty-two years.

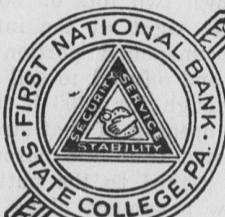
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