

# TURNING THE DIALS

BY FRED H. RUSSELL

Bob Dixon is one of the "non-glamorous" category of radio stars. The affable, good-humored host of CBS radio's "Rhythm on the Road," heard Sunday afternoon, has passed the most difficult test of them all. The engineers say "He's on at least 15 radio programs and seven television programs a week, and he still wears the same size hat." Robert Roy Dixon was born on a farm near Stamford. The good looking six-foot, four-inch 235-pounder attended the Tennessee Military Institute, Virginia Military Institute and Springfield (Mass.) college. He received a BS degree in physical education and an MA in education.

Not long after he finished school, Dixon took the plunge into radio. In 1941, he found himself in Hoboken, N. J., working at WYNY, a radio station he helped to found.

"I worked at everything, from radio time salesman to engineer," he recalls.

Though his college training centered around athletics, his business interests channeled into radio, he says, as Mr. Dixon puts it, "I love to sell, and I believe that radio is the best medium, not only for selling but for preparing the customer for the sale. It's had this thought ever since I started in radio and I still believe it. As for my college interests, boxing and football, I guess I've outgrown them."

He says he will not accept a product that he is not reasonably sure he can sell.

"And that policy has paid off," he says. "I get mail from housewives thanking me for telling them about my products. Many of them say they prefer my word over that of their husbands, an advice about the products that I am selling."

Dixon still works on his farm near Stamford. He breeds and raises Aberdeen Angus cattle, chickens, turkeys and pheasants, and for his pet project he breeds Palomino horses. He also does extensive truck farming.

In 1942 Dixon worked for WTAG, the CBS station in Worcester, Mass. He left in 1945 and went to CBS Radio in New York, working on "Hobby Lobby."

"I learned to be a magician, somewhere along the way, and I used magic tricks to warm up the studio audience," he recalls with a chuckle. Other hobbies included gun collecting, camping, canoeing and hunting.

Dixon lives on his farm with his wife Phyllis. They have two children, Roy, who is studying geology at Dartmouth and Roberta, a Stamford High school student.

About "Rhythm on the Road," Mr. Dixon says he doesn't know a thing about music. "I wouldn't know a quarter-note if I fell over one," he explains, but "I certainly enjoy listening to the good music sung and played by the musical civil on the program."

**Civil Defense**  
The vital question, "Where Do We Stand on Civil Defense?" will be the subject discussed on America's Town Meeting of the Air tonight from 8 to 9 o'clock over WNAE and WABC.

Val Peterson, Civil Defense administrator, Mayor August Walk of Wilmington, Del., and Congressman Daniel Flood (D-Penn.)

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# SUNDAY'S RADIO PROGRAM

**DIAL SETTINGS**  
WABC-770  
WCCB-600  
WICC-690  
WAVZ-1280  
WVCZ-1000  
WIND-1010

**8:30 A.M.**  
WABC-770  
WCCB-600  
WICC-690  
WAVZ-1280  
WVCZ-1000  
WIND-1010

**11:00 A.M.**  
WABC-770  
WCCB-600  
WICC-690  
WAVZ-1280  
WVCZ-1000  
WIND-1010

**1:00 P.M.**  
WABC-770  
WCCB-600  
WICC-690  
WAVZ-1280  
WVCZ-1000  
WIND-1010

**3:00 P.M.**  
WABC-770  
WCCB-600  
WICC-690  
WAVZ-1280  
WVCZ-1000  
WIND-1010

**5:00 P.M.**  
WABC-770  
WCCB-600  
WICC-690  
WAVZ-1280  
WVCZ-1000  
WIND-1010

**7:00 P.M.**  
WABC-770  
WCCB-600  
WICC-690  
WAVZ-1280  
WVCZ-1000  
WIND-1010

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WICC-690  
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WVCZ-1000  
WIND-1010

# Radio Highlights

**8:00** - **MONITOR**: Entertainment and Information until midnight WABC

**8:30** - **CHURCH OF AIR**: The Rev. Dr. Harold E. Walker, pastor of the Episcopal Church, Wabaco, Wabaco, Wabaco

**9:00** - **CHURCH OF AIR**: The Rev. Dr. Harold E. Walker, pastor of the Episcopal Church, Wabaco, Wabaco, Wabaco

**10:00** - **CHURCH OF AIR**: The Rev. Dr. Harold E. Walker, pastor of the Episcopal Church, Wabaco, Wabaco, Wabaco

**11:00** - **CHURCH OF AIR**: The Rev. Dr. Harold E. Walker, pastor of the Episcopal Church, Wabaco, Wabaco, Wabaco

**12:00** - **CHURCH OF AIR**: The Rev. Dr. Harold E. Walker, pastor of the Episcopal Church, Wabaco, Wabaco, Wabaco

**1:00** - **CHURCH OF AIR**: The Rev. Dr. Harold E. Walker, pastor of the Episcopal Church, Wabaco, Wabaco, Wabaco

**2:00** - **CHURCH OF AIR**: The Rev. Dr. Harold E. Walker, pastor of the Episcopal Church, Wabaco, Wabaco, Wabaco

# Dangerous Pets

**Are Features Of Circus**

Four of the world's greatest circus acts and two of its strangest and most dangerous "pets"—a tame but deadly Arizona rattlesnake and a full-grown leopard—will be seen on TV's pioneer tank feature, "Snapper Circus" over Channel 7 and 43 today, from 5 to 8 p.m.

The four-foot fully-fanged Arizona Mojave rattler, with his unusual playmate, a small white mouse, will be handled by his owner Bill Eisenstein who is afraid of no snake "as long as it has not been harmed by man," and who lives with rattlesnakes in his Arizona home. The leopard is six-year-old Keeta, a pet of Denise Darcel.

The top circus acts will include: The Ivanoff-Mario and Josephine and their trained canine in a display of intricate acrobatics atop the roll-a-roll board and an elaborate tower rigging called their "Status of Liberty"; Lee Marks—a juggling genius for whom no object is too small, large or impossible to include in his flying program;

The Four Whirlwinds—some of the finest, fastest and farthest roller skaters to be found anywhere in the world; and Woodcock's Elephants—giants of the circus world performing for the pleasure of wide-eyed youngsters.

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# Gardening This Week

By THE SUNDAY POST GARDENER

Summer care of the garden need not be much of a chore if one observes certain requirements.

First comes regular spraying or dusting to control insect pests and diseases. Second is feeding with a complete fertilizer. Third comes watering, followed by pruning, cultivation and mulching in any order you choose.

Spraying or dusting for the preservation of the foliage is of utmost importance because all the food of a plant is manufactured in the leaves. Thus protection should start as soon as leaf development begins in spring and continue until frost. To wait until the damage is done can be disastrous.

Spraying or dusting should take place every 10 days or two weeks, and often in wet periods. And, if insects suddenly appear, even though you sprayed yesterday, get out your gun and wipe them out. This is especially true of aphids—they sucking insects which drain the life of a plant, but which succumb to a Black Leaf 40 or Lirdane spray.

Feeding with a fertilizer which has a 4-12-4 or similar formula is satisfactory for all plants. It has enough nitrogen and potash for growth, and sufficient phosphorus for flowering and root growth, if your carrots or beets happen to be the subject.

**FOR RHODODENDRONS**, azaleas and evergreens in general, the old gardener suggests using one part of a 4-12-4 fertilizer and three parts cottonseed meal. Use two to five heaping tablespoons to a plant, depending upon the size of each plant. Spread it around in a thin layer, then cultivate and water it in. Repeat every three weeks until late August.

Water is important. It prevents the plant from wilting, enables the soil organisms to break down the organic matter into simpler forms so they are available to the plant. It helps the soil acids to break down the insoluble mineral com-

pounds in both the soil and fertilizers, and it replaces the water removed from the plant by transpiration. Faded flowers should be removed to encourage new growth, and, in many instances, to induce a second crop of flowers. Light pruning of roses is advised as most of the hybrid teas will bloom intermittently if faded flowers and about 15 to 20 per cent of the old wood is removed.

**THE SAME HOLDS TRUE** of the large flowered chimeas, but do not be too severe for it is on the old wood that next year's bloom comes. In all cases dead and diseased wood must be removed. Keep down weeds. Keep all diseased leaves from the beds, and cultivate lightly enough to keep the surface loose and clean. If you wish to reduce the chore of cultivation, preserve soil moisture as well as keep down the weeds, then mulch with peat moss, shredded sugar cane, ground corn cobs, or any other appropriate and available material.

**Gardeners' Questions**  
Q—In front of our lot is a terrace six feet high and so steep that it is almost impossible to mow. What cheap ground cover plant can be substituted for the grass?  
A—The least expensive, worthwhile ground cover plant is bugleweed, *ajuga reptans*. This semi-evergreen herbaceous plant, belonging to the mint family, will do well in sun or shade. About six inches tall, *ajuga* blooms in May and June, bearing blue or purple flowers in dense whorls. Plant a foot apart as it spreads rapidly.

Q—How does one get English ivy to start climbing on a brick house?  
A—First be advised that ivy will not climb on painted walls or to any height on south and west exposure. Vines rooted from cuttings taken from a long established plant will climb. Why not use some Wayward Vine Guides—clever little supports that are attached to the wall with cement.

Q—About 30 years ago I planted a dozen hybrid rhododendrons in front of the house. They grew splendidly but so large that they covered the windows and entrance. I pruned them back to the ground last winter, but little new growth has developed to date. What can be done to restore their beauty?  
A—Do not be impatient. Maybe the plants are starved after all these years. Why not fertilize the soil with a mixture of equal parts cottonseed meal and a 4-12-4 fertilizer, using 5 pounds per 100 sq. ft. of area.

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