

Fan Fare

Literary is the word for CBS personalities these days. Max Wyllie, director of the script department, is just completing a book on "Radio Writing" and Gabriel Heatter, of "We, the People," is working on a volume on the techniques of enunciation. David Victor, who's the author of the "Her Honor, Nancy James" scripts, announces that he returns from his recent "Father's Doing Nicely," a book lampooning a father's trials while his child is being born, has more than paid the doctor's bills for the arrival of his latest.

The ability of Mary Margaret McBride, CBS's 'emine air columnist, to ad lib served her in good stead last week. While being fitted for glasses, drops were put in her eyes and, unable to see, she had to do her air-stint entirely impromptu.

Latest addition to Kate Smith's menage is a cocker spaniel, presented by Betty Garde, who appears almost every week in the dramatic presentation on Kate's Variety hour.

Martin Wolfson, director of plays for the WPA theater projects, has joined the cast of "The Goldbergs."

Oscar Polk, who plays the part of Horace in "Big Sister," portrays a similar part in the Broadway play, "You Can't Take It With You."

Ray Buffum, author of many of the "Big Town" shows which star Edward G. Robinson and Claire Trevor, has been engaged to write a biography of Al Jolson.

Eddie Cantor evidently is working for the title as Hollywood's busiest man. In addition to his CBS broadcasts, he is conferring with producers and writers on his next picture, which will be a dramatic record of his more than 25 years in show business.

Kenny Baker, vocalist of the Star theater, was an earnest front-row audience member when Lawrence Tibbett gave his Los Angeles concert.

Lesley Wood of the "It Can Be Done" cast and Reese Taylor of "The Romance of Helen Trent" are assuming two of the leading roles in the Minneapolis production of "Yes, My Darling Daughter."

Fiber McGee won't admit, but it's a fact that he's approached daily by young hero-worshippers asking how they, too, can acquire knowledge as great as that exemplified by the comedian on his broadcasts.

Malcolm Meachon, of "Arnold Grimm's Daughter," adds to his extensive repertoire of dialect every chance he gets. Starting conversations with all types of persons has become almost an obsession with Malcolm, but it pays dividends.

Betty Lou Gerson, star of "Arnold Grimm's Daughter," gave up teaching dramatics in order to devote all her time to acting.

Max Reinhardt, whose "Workshop" is a weekly air feature, is due to arrive in New York from Hollywood the first week in November to start casting "Merchant of Yonkers." The play, by Thornton Wilder, author of "Our Town," opens on Broadway Dec. 15. Workshop students are under consideration for supporting roles.