

Gracie Allen Drops Comedy For Straight Role Sunday

Comedienne To Play With James Cagney On Screen Guild Theatre; Jack Benny Plans To Present African Epic

Gracie Allen, of Burns and Allen, will drop her usual comedy role to portray a dramatic character with James Cagney in an Irish play on the first half of the "Screen Guild Theatre," Sunday over WABC at 7:30 p. m.

Gracie will join her partner, George Burns, Gloria Jean, Roger Pryor, James Cagney, John Conte and Oscar Bradley's orchestra in a comedy skit during the last half of Hollywood's famed theatre.

Many people might scoff at the idea of Gracie Allen as a straight, dramatic actress, but records show that before she married George Burns and became his vaudeville partner, she was considered one of the best actresses on Broadway. Cagney will pick the Irish vehicle in which she will be co-starred.

Both the producers and Miss Allen realize that it's a great risk to cast a comedienne in a tragic role, but they are banking on her ability to put over the part. Film producers have tried it without success especially in the case of Zazu Pitts, who was given a heavy role in "All Quiet On The Western Front." At the preview the laughter of the audience caused Miss Pitts to be cut from the picture. Critics say it was not the fault of the actress but the fact that audiences were so accustomed to Miss Pitts in comedy roles.

Gloria Jean, the youngster who was chosen to take Deanna Durbin's former screen roles when Deanna graduated into ingenue parts, will sing three numbers to the accompaniment of Oscar Bradley's orchestra on the program.

Jack Benny, who's lost his appetite for mammy songs since encountering Dennis Day's stage mother, will present his African epic, "Benny and Livingstone," postponed from last week owing to his tangle with his new tenor's maternal protector, during the broadcast over WEAJ Sunday at 7:00 p. m. Jack Benny, anxious to determine Phil Harris' musical I. Q., will play host to Kay Kyser, the quizzing professor, during his broadcast.

Before the Benny barnstormers present their dramatic travesty of "Stanley and Livingstone," Dean Kyser will drop in to test the Harris' musical acumen. As one musician to another, Benny will call upon Kyser to enlighten the curly-haired maestro on several points. Professor Kyser will also be asked to appraise the scholastic rating

BEST BETS SUNDAY

P. M.

- 5:15—Four Star News, WJZ.
- 5:30 — Paul Wings Spelling Bee, WEAJ.
- 6:30—Grouch Club, WEAJ.
- 7:00—Jack Benny and Mary, WEAJ.
- 7:30—Screen Guild Theatre, WABC.
- 7:30—Mr. District Attorney, WJZ.
- 8:00—Charlie McCarthy Hour, WEAJ.
- 9:45—Bill Stern and Sports, WJZ.

of Corn Pone Tech, Phil's Alma Mater.

As Stanley Benny, ace reporter and paper hawker for the Waukegan Daily Bilge, Jack will co-star in his travesty on "Stanley and Livingstone" with Mary, who's scheduled to play Dr. Livingstone, she presumes.

Don Wilson and Andy Divine, selected for porters in the Benny Safari, plan to warm up for their roles by carrying the bags under Phil Harris' eyes. And Rochester, who figures the porters' tips won't be very heavy with Mr. Benny in charge of the exchequer, is campaigning for the post of vice-president in charge of po'k chops.

Jack's sensational new tenor, Dennis Day, will sing "Day In, Day Out," and Phil Harris' orchestra will play "An Apple for the Teacher."

Splenetic, cross-grained exception Ned Sparks, master-grump of the century, has signed for the radio season and comes home to his proper roost Sunday when he becomes the star of the "Grouch

Club." The program is heard over WEAJ at 6:30 p. m.

Renowned for his perpetual professional grouch, Ned comes to the microphone an odds-on favorite to edge Orson (Mars) Welles out of first place as the people's choice for "Boogeyman, Radio Season 1939-1940."

The entire cast of the "Grouch Club," which remains intact, will be on hand to welcome Ned to the studio for his first broadcast.

Larry Kelly, specialist in spearing footballs out of the air with one hand, will be the athletic luminary interviewed by Bill Stern during his Sports Newsreel of the Air, Sunday, at 9:45 p. m., over WJZ. Kelly, author of the controversial "The Ivy League Was the Poison League to Me," will discuss the current football situation and relate experiences on the gridiron at Yale. Stern also will include four additional reels devoted to the big story of the day, a feature story, a profile, and the sport highlight of the week.

Mistakes will spell doom in a spell-down between students of Columbia University and Good Council College of White Plains, N. Y., when Paul Wing's Spelling Bee is held between teams from these colleges on Sunday, over WEAJ at 5:30 p. m. The collegians of Columbia include Charles H. Schnee, David Kagon, Jerry Robinson, Abraham Labarsky and Alvin Turken. Spellers from the White Plains women's college are now being selected.

Another edition of Four Star News, presented by four star reporters on news developments will be heard Sunday at 5:15 p. m., over WJZ. Baukhage, recently returned from the turmoil in Europe, will discuss the international situation. Graham McNamee, veteran radio announcer, will report national happenings. Nola Luxford will bring news of interest to women, and Bill Stern will cover the sports front.

For the first time since shifting from WEAJ to WJZ network, Mr. District Attorney will feature a mystery thriller on his program, Sunday at 7:30 p. m. The racket claiming Mr. D. A.'s attention will be horse-betting and Jay Jostyn, title roleist, will be assisted by a cast including Arlene Francis, Alice Frost, Frank Lovejoy, Len Doyle and Maurice Franklin. Harry Salter's orchestra will provide musical background.

Olivia De Havilland returns for her annual treatment by heart specialist Charlie "Casanova" McCarthy, and is presented with Nelson Eddy in a dramatic sketch at 8 p. m. Sunday over WEAJ.

James Stewart Heads Cast In Quilna Film

Since attaining stardom in "Seventh Heaven," James Stewart has appeared in many a picture opposite many a lovely Hollywood actress. Nearly all of his films have been successes, some more so than others.

Stewart's greatest success, opposite Jean Arthur in Frank

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

Eastern Standard—Subtract One Hr. for CST, 2 Hrs. for MT.—P. M.
(Changes in programs as listed due to last-minute network corrections)

- 1:00—Sunday Symphonette—nbc-weaf
- A Pilgrimage of Poetry—nbc-wjz
- Church of the Air Sermon—chs-wabe
- Don Arnes with Orchestra—mbs-wor
- 1:15—NBC Concert Orches—nbc-wjz
- True to Life Discussion—mbs-wor
- Singing Canaries—mbs-midwest
- 1:30—Rangers in Serenade—nbc-weaf
- Festival of Music, Orches.—nbc-wjz
- News & Brown's Strings—chs-wabe
- Stefania's Hour—mbs-midwest

STATIONS THAT MAKE UP THE NETWORKS

(Note: Refer to this box for stations participating in each network's program)