

Wilmette Woman Has Many Roles as a Radio Artist

More than two score residents of the north shore are real factors in maintaining the series of enjoyable programs which come from loud speakers in the homes of their friends and the rest of the listening public. Several feminine names are in the list of stars.

One of the most versatile of the women entertainers is the wife of Dr. S. P. Perry, 903 Ridge avenue, Wilmette, whom the radio knows as "Bess Johnson," which was her maiden name and her stage name during her eight years of thespian experience.

Mrs. Perry is a native of Keyser, W. Va., and the daughter of Herman B. Johnson, former state senator and still a member of the state board of control.

Directs Play When 16

During her very early years, the family moved to Elkins, W. Va., the home of the late United States Senator Stephen B. Elkins and the equally famous Henry Gassoway Davis, where she received her earliest schooling, devoting the closing years of it to dramatic art. When she was 16, she directed a play which attained notable local success.

Later she attended the Fort Loudon academy at Winchester, W. Va., and then Carnegie Tech. in New York, where she played leads in practically all of the dramas presented by the dramatic department. She also was cast for many leads in stage presentations at the American academy in New York and, having appeared in the world premiere of "Rita Conventry," was offered the Broadway lead in that production. She did not accept, although she spent two years on Broadway.

Joins Goodman Theater

Upon coming to Chicago, she cast her lot with the Goodman theater and was with the Goodman Repertory company from its beginning to its final performance. It was from there that she stepped into radio.

Although she has been before the microphone less than a year and a half, she now has speaking parts in eighteen broadcast programs each week, many of them on the national chains, and portrays all feminine roles from stately matron to servile menial. There's a reason, then, she says, why her drive may not always land in the fairway and why, upon occasion, she may forget what's trump at bridge.

She is an experienced equestrienne, loves to drive her own car, is a strong swimmer and has one beauty prize among her laurels.

She is so much in radio, where she has come to be known as "the lady with the smiling voice," that even her daughter, Jane, who is three years old, calls her "Bess," too.

Winnetkan Sails for Eight Weeks Abroad

Miss Helen Aldrich, of 394 Chestnut street, Winnetka, sailed on the S. S. Volendam from New York last Saturday for an eight weeks' visit to France and England. She is a member of the Drama League study tour party under Miss Olivia Hobgood of Wellesley, which will take a course at the Central School of Speech in London under Miss Elsie Fogerty, continuing the course at Stratford-on-Avon during the Shakespeare festival, at Malvern during the Malvern festival, and a week at Oxford. Miss Aldrich is a member of the Winnetka Drama club, and a graduate of Ferry Hall and the Goodman Theater school.

TRAVELING IN EUROPE

Milan Lusk of Wilmette, violinist, who is on a concert tour in Europe, is now playing in Prague, Czechoslovakia, where he went from Belgium. He sends word that concerts are still very popular despite the lateness of the season.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Howe of New York announce the birth of a son on Monday, June 27. His name is Charles Noyes Howe. Mr. Howe is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Howe of 240 Kenilworth avenue, Kenilworth.

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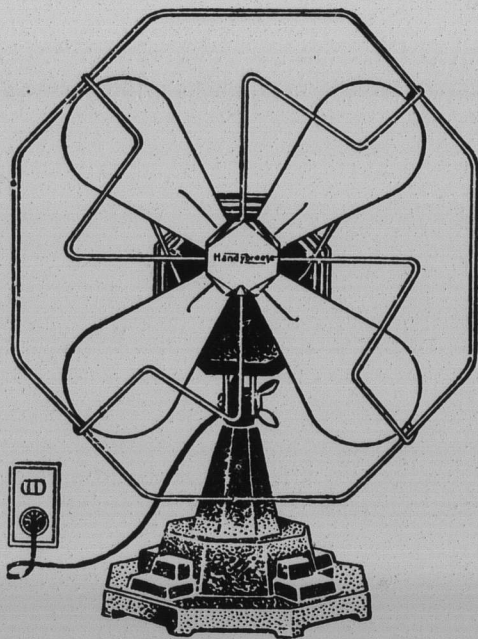


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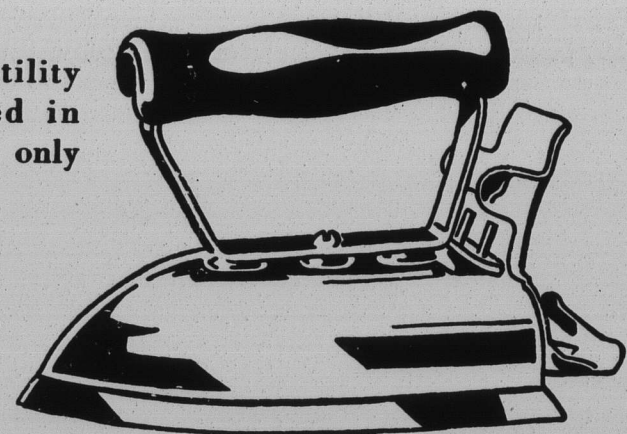
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