

Personality Preview

UNUSUAL STORIES about USUAL PEOPLE

By ANNA TAMARRI

Her family used to tell her to stop the warbling, but now Bobby Axt is an amateur hour protegee. One night she tuned in to Rubens' Hour of Opportunity, and decided to write for an audition, just for the thrill of being heard over the radio. Audition she did, and successfully. She appeared on the amateur hour broadcast New Year's eve, over WCFL, when she won first prize, a wrist watch, among nine amateurs with her rendition of "Melancholy Mood."

Her voice is low—a baritone—sort of "blueish," Bobby says; she patterns after Frances Langford. Always looking for new songs that suit her voice, she likes the new tune, "I Concentrate on You." On the "Stars of Tomorrow" program, in which the three high winners in the Hour of Opportunity broadcast, she sang "On a Little Street in Singapore." Bobby says it wasn't done in her best key, but a little higher than is her wont, because there was a substitute pianist.

Bobby doesn't care to accompany herself, first because she can't concentrate on the song and second because it is hard for her to transpose the music into her key. She admits to being scared at her first broad-

cast, but only a trifle—through the first few notes of her song. After that, she was so intent on putting across her song, she hadn't time to be afraid.

Bobby continues to survive competition. On the Stars program, one person was chosen for a week's engagement at the Oriental theater in Chicago. That one was Bobby. So after "Gone with the Wind" finishes its six-week run there, she will be heard and seen on the stage.

But Bobby doesn't intend to sit around. This week she auditioned with a Chicago teacher, to find out whether her voice is worth training and to secure entertainment jobs. Her ambition is to sing with an orchestra.

Graduated last June from Highland Park high school and a resident of Highwood 111 High street, Bobby is 18 now. She dabbled in various courses at high school, commercial, home economics, nurses' preparatory, and took three "way back when" years of piano, wishes they'd been voice instruction. Bobby likes Martha Raye, Frank Sinatra, Eddie Howard.

A very blonde beauty, poised and slender, Bobby is enthusiastic about singing, "crazy about it," in fact.

Tells of 25,000 Mile Trip Across U. S. To Alaskan Wilds

Following is a continuation of the round robin letters sent to friends by Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Patton, on their 25,000 mile trailer trip to Alaska.

A roadhouse in Alaska, is a small inn where there is usually a trading post, kitchen and bun house for travellers. They occur about every 15 to 20 miles along the trail and did a thriving business before planes took over all long distance travel. Their principal items of sale for the traveler were, meals, a bed and dog feed.

We lay over a day in Diamond to give Olie a chance to prepare the incoming mail. He serves about 100 natives, trappers and miners.

Coming in the night before I had a glorious view of McKinley for many miles, but being twilight it was too dark for pictures. It is hard to realize with everything plainly visible how little light there really is. My camera has a 2.5 stop but that is not fast enough except at noon. I hitched up my team and back tracked about 4 miles to a hill, where all the trees were frost tinged, a marvelously beautiful sight of fleecily covered branches as delicate as the finest of hand-made lace. The custom of spraying Christmas trees with aluminum paint apparently came from seeing the frost clinging to the scraggly, bare arms of the Tamarack, the only conifer that drops its needles each winter. Unfortunately the sky remained overcast and McK remained hidden from view.

Our trip back was uneventful except for two days of cold, when I donned my polar clothes. One day we travelled all day, with it over 20 below and by nine o'clock that night when we turned to it was 38 and still dropping. One of the interesting sights are the road signs, there being mile posts every mile showing the distance from Nenana, and the last two relief cabins. About one-half of these signs are still in place, the others having been removed by bears, who were offended at man's intrusion of their domain. When the mile ended on a flat or lake a standard was erected and the sign attached.

Also the trail across flats had to be staked out with willows or tripods in case it might be obliterated with

drifted snow and you are afoot. With dogs, your leader sticks to the trail.

To most people dogs are four footed beasts, some docile, some playful and some inclined to use their ivory, but in a team of Huskies you find each with its own characteristics. One of my wheel dogs I called Roly Poly because whenever I stopped her back itched and she proceeded to roll back and forth on her back. Grandma was her mate, being old and sedate, working like a trooper when the gait was not too strenuous. My swing dogs were strong, vigorous beasts, Murphy, being intelligent, shy and a willing worker, always on the job. Mike's method of keeping discipline was to gently propel a lead pellet from an air gun at the spot most visible on the offending dog. Sugar, my leader, was a dainty little miss, rather playfully inclined. As a rule she was a splendid leader, being fast and tireless.

Back to Nenana on the 23rd where I had to lay over until Christmas day for the train. As travel is slow when the boats are up, the hotel was closed and only the laye assembly room in back of the lobby heated. A half dozen beds has been set up against the walls shut in by sheets. The proprietress occupied one of these cubicles, the guests the others. Our hot water consisted of a five gallon oil can resting on the stove and cold water came from a similar source on the floor. The water being shut off, a barrel of ice cakes, kept in an adjoining closet were periodically dropped into the can on the stove.

One of the most impressive experiences I have had up here was at St. Mark's Mission at Nenana which takes care of about 35 native orphans. They put on a Christmas play (the story of Christ's birth) in the chapel. A chorus of a dozen girls, 6 to 14 years, sang faultlessly many carols, a half dozen small youngsters recited lines including the 23rd psalm, etc. They say the natives are natural born actors and it is sure true. Those kids entered into the play, without the slightest bit of self consciousness, show offness or smartness so common to white children appearing on the stage. It was beautiful to hear them say their lines with the musical accent of the native. After the play I went over to tea at Bishop and Mrs. Bentley's cabin, which is a beautiful home. They are a wonderful couple and beloved all over

Alaska. There they entertained white and Siwash with equal graciousness.

On our way back from the Mission I was asked if I had noticed the girl who handles the curtains. I had as she was an exceedingly pretty native of above 18. It appears she was born on the lower Yukon and one January when she was six years old, her father left on his annual six weeks visit to the trappers to buy fur, leaving his squaw wife and two small children aged 6 and 4 at his trading post. Upon returning he was surprised to find the store closed and just a wisp of smoke coming out the cabin chimney. Everything looked desolate and the two youngsters who greeted him were ragged, dishevelled and dirty with a sad worn expression on their faces. Come to find out his wife had died a week after he left leaving those two kids alone, miles from help in the middle of the Arctic winter. The six year old rose to the occasion and with the help of her little sister dragged their mother's body outside, where it froze up. She then broke in the store to get food and managed to keep the fires going in the cabin until her father should return. Both children came through the ordeal no worse for it, although saddened by the experience. I wonder how many of our 6 year olds, who live in luxury of modern civilization would have the courage and initiative to survive under similar circumstances.

They say the Alaska towns were turned over to the kids in the early days and this still holds true in the smaller communities. The pioneers put on a Christmas tree, where every kid in town received a bag of candy and a useful gift. This year there was enough money to spend a dollar a piece on the gifts. In former years and with fewer children and the stampered on gifts up to \$25 a piece were given at these parties.

The time goes by quickly and we are now waiting for the middle of the month to take off for Nome and an eskimo village somewhere in the Arctic. From what I can learn we must go up on the Arctic Ocean as far as Point Hope, if we are to see what we want. At any rate the days are growing longer, rapidly now, and in a couple of weeks we should have enough daylight for pictures and flying north of the circle.

My next episode probably won't be written until we are back in the States as we expect to go outside immediately upon our return from Eskimo land.

With best wishes for a Happy New Year, we are, Bob, Sue and Dick.

Vesper Service at Bethany, Sunday

A special vesper consisting of anthems by the Choir and special numbers by individuals will take place at Bethany church Sunday afternoon at 4:30 p.m. The pastor will also present a brief gospel message to those who are at the service. Due to the vesper there will be no evening service at Bethany.

Read The Want-Ads

LIBRARY

1440 - 1940

Nineteen hundred and forty ushers in the 500th anniversary of the invention of printing. Probably no other single event has so influenced the civilized world.

John Gutenberg, native of Mainz, lived in Strassburg at the time his experimental work on the printing press was done. Secrecy surrounded his invention with outlets for his work outside of Strassburg. This probably accounts for some of the earliest survivals of printed matter being associated with Holland. In 1456 a printed Bible appeared bound and ready to be placed in a church on the outskirts of Mainz. This is known as the Gutenberg, the Mazarin, or the Forty two line Bible.

The first printing to be done in America appeared in Mexico as early as 1534. By 1543 the devel-

opment was rapid and many books were printed by Mexican presses during the remainder of the 16th century.

To Cambridge, Massachusetts goes the honor of having the first printing press in the United States. In 1640, 200 years after the Gutenberg invention, the "Bay Psalm Book" was printed in Cambridge. This was the first published book, but it had been preceded by an almanac in pamphlet form.

A few books on the history of printing and books, available at the Public Library, follow:

Gutenberg to Plantin, by G. P. Winship.

Magic of the book, by W. D. Orcutt.

Students history of printing, by M. W. Haynes.

Early American books and printing, by J. T. Winterich.

In quest of the perfect book, by W. D. Orcutt.

Kingdom of books, by W. D. Orcutt.

The golden book, by D. C. McMurtrie.


Books and their history shown to the children, by R. N. D. Wilson.

SAFETYGRAMS

We are beginning a new year. What will 1940 hold for you as a driver and as a pedestrian as far as safety is concerned?

It is too early to tell definitely what the results of all safety activities in 1939 are, although from all indications, there is a possibility of a slight reduction in accidents. I will give you definite information just as soon as actual figures are released.

In the meantime let's forget 1939 and look forward to 1940, and let every today and tomorrow be a safe day, free from all types of accidents.




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