RAY BROOKS

SHOP TALK

(Inasmuch as the new CBS-KNX transmitter is located in North Torrance and will soon be flinging both good & bad radio programs all over the Universe, the following chit chat about the new Columbia Studios in Hollywood—picked up on a tour thru the plant one day last week—might be interesting.—Shop Talk).

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UNLESS YOU WERE A RADIO STATION YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T KNOW:

That a trip thru Columbia Square (as it is so cunningly called) is well worth the 40c toll! (How should I know? I got in on a pass!)

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That the station's continual use of "On the air from Columbia Square" rather gets in my hair. How about you?

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That there are 114 stations in the CBS network, with KNX the "key" station on the Pacific coast. All programs coming from the east must pass thru Los Angeles, thence north to San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, Spokane and into Montana. And vica verse.

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That CBS transmits all programs via leased telephone wires to the stations where they are broadcast.

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That the president of CBS is only 31 summers old now, took over the chain at 26 when there were but 19 stations affiliated.

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That CBS has two associate stations in the Hawaiian Isles, one in Honolulu, other in Hilo.

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That the new Columbia Square is a super-masterpiece of streamlining, with no windows and fully air-conditioned. (Our guide told us a visitor asked him how long it would take for everyone to suffocate if the ventilating system went on the fritz!).

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That the guides for gawking tourists are young fellers who "go to school" most of the time, show people around in their spare moments. After two years' study of every department they are finally placed where they are most likely to succeed. In Hollywood there are six, with applications a foot high. The New York studio has twenty.

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That the broadcasting studios (there are four pairs, each pair identical to the others) are the last word in such things, being boxed in with small steel springs and are completely independent of the walls. The springs absorb any vibration from without. The studios' inner walls are lined with about three inches of sound & vibration absorbing material to soften opera singers screeching high C's.

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That a technician, called a "mixer," watches every broadcast from a sound-proof "telephone booth," keeps sounds "mixed" just right so that a shrill tone won't tear the innards outa yer raddio.

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That each visitor is given the opportunity to record his voice on an electrical transcribing gadget, have it played back at him. (If you've never heard your own voice you'll be amazed what it sounds like).

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That the sound effects department is the most interesting of all. The sound technician demonstrates different equipment, shows you how commonplace sounds are made with the most commonplace tools. A few examples:

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Footsteps in the snow are made by squeezing a small bag of corn starch! Booming of guns are simulated by hitting a tightly stretched piece of common insect screen. An ordinary strawberry box is smashed close to the mike when depicting the crashing-in of a door. An explosion and subsequent landslide are brought to life by the use of a 12-inch rubber sphere (like a basketball bladder). The sphere has a few buck shot in it. The operator merely gives it a sharp flip (that's the explosion) lets the buck shot roll back to the bottom of the ball (that's the landslide). The thing is so real you start for cover! Automobile & airplane motors are recorded from life. So are train noises. Crashups of any of these are made by throwing assorted junk on the floor.

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That if the tourist trade continues at 40 centimes a head it won't take them long to pay for the building.

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That I was tremendously impressed by the realization that such a colossal plant with its highly developed equipment has sprung from the lowly "crystal set" and in so few years.

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That despite the millions of dollars invested in both land, buildings, trained technicians and the most efficient & powerful radio broadcasting equipment it is possible to obtain . . . despite all this, the station CAN PRODUCE BUT ONE PROGRAM AT A TIME!

Mashers Annoy Wife Going to Meet Husband

"Mashers"—who are described by police officers here as "the lowest form of life"—are being sought for annoying the wife of a National Supply worker who nightly leaves her home to accompany her husband returning from work.

The local woman has been accosted several times recently on her way to the industrial plant and only escaped her annoyers by running from them.

French Claim Salads Have "Love Charm;" New Recipe Created by Home Economist

Freshly-cut pineapple, sliced radishes and salad greens tossed with French dressing is one of the newest of flavor combinations to make salad history.

Making a timely bow in the season when the great out-of-doors beckons and appetites call for something cold and crisp, this recipe, created first in the testing kitchens of Servel, Inc., is a "pet" of Gladys B. Price, home service supervisor of the Southern California Gas company, who urges homemakers to add it to their "salad repertoire."

"In France, where salads were born, they have a proverb which declares that salads have a 'love charm'," says Miss Price. "Furthermore, the adage advises a wife to serve one to her husband every day to hold him in thrall, 'even if she has to send to Rome for it'.

Has Health-Giving Qualities

"The modern woman, however, has only to send to the corner market for her salad ingredients and by keeping them stored in her gas refrigerator, she can serve the most tempting salads with a few minutes preparation, remain as cool as the cucumbers she uses in the salad bowl, and as independent (from the kitchen) as the Fourth of July.

"There's reason enough why salads should have a 'love charm,'" she went on. "Their colorful appearance whets the appetite, and the health-giving qualities of salad greens keep a husband feeling fit and in good humor.

"This new recipe may be tossed together in a few minutes, yet when brought to the table, its gay color and tantalizing flavor will bring forth a chorus of praise. The complete recipe is as follows:

To Keep Greens Crisp

"Cut a medium sized pineapple into small 'fingers', add one-half cup of sugar, and store in the gas refrigerator until thoroughly chilled. Slice eight or ten radishes, combine with the pineapple just before serving, and place on a bed of mixed salad greens.

"For the dressing, a simple French dressing was used, made with one-half cup salad oil, one-fourth cup vinegar, three-fourths teaspoon of salt, a dash of pepper, and a dash of bitters. The bowl in which the dressing was mixed was first rubbed with a cut clove of garlic.

"The salad should be served in a large bowl, arranged attractively, with a dressing added just before serving and the salad then tossed lightly. The simplest method of keeping salad greens crisp is to wash them carefully under cold running water, to drain well, then to place them in one of the two vegetable fresheners provided in the gas refrigerator. They will remain garden-fresh here for days.

Ideal For Molded

"These vegetable fresheners pull out like drawers, the covers remaining attached to the special rack provided, so that while one stands before the refrigerator, greens may be selected quickly and easily and the freshener then replaced. No trip to the sink is necessary.

"Another feature of the new gas refrigerator that comes in handy during the salad season is the two-way glass cold storage tray just beneath the freezing unit, which is ideal for molding large gelatin salads quickly."

Hypnotist Held

Glendale, Cal., police held Robert Avery Gilbert, one-time famed stage hypnotist, following the mysterious death of 23-year-old Mrs. Marie Colombos, an expectant mother. Gilbert, who recently assisted in a "post hypnotic" birth for another woman, told authorities he was called to prevent childbirth for Mrs. Colombos.

Million Checks Sent to State's Jobless Workers

Check writing machines at the Department of Employment have clicked off the state's "millionth" unemployment compensation benefit payment, according to Carl L. Hyde, executive director.

"The million benefit checks written by the Department represent more than $10,000,000 distributed throughout the state," Hyde said. "We have gone a long way since February 14, when Check No. 1 was handed out by Governor Merriam in Los Angeles. Even with the distribution of $10,000,000, the Department's reserve in the Unemployment Trust Fund has not been depleted materially."

CLUBS MEET TONIGHT

A joint meeting of the Rotary and Kiwanis clubs will be held tonight at the Legion clubhouse with the Rotarians providing the program.

Shoe Caught, Loses Foot

MARTINS FERRY, O. (U.P.)—William Pyle, 14, saved his life but lost one foot when his shoe caught in a railroad switch as a train approached.

Golden Spade Used

PHILADELPHIA (U.P.)—Henry W. Breyer, turned over the first earth to open construction of an addition to the Park Congregational church with the same gold spade his mother as a little girl broke ground for the church 32 years previously.

REDONDOAN FINED

William W. Reed, 31, of Redondo Beach, was fined $25 or 10 days in jail for being drunk in an auto here Tuesday night.

COUNCIL MEETS TUESDAY

The next regular meeting of the city council will be Tuesday night, July 12.