



TIC TOC

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~~710 2700 - JANUARY 1965~~

**HAL SCHNERR ATTENDS
FLYING PARTY ON COAST**

Hal Schnerr just returned from Palm Springs where he attended the "Aircraft Owners and Pilots Assn." Plantation Party.

He flew out in Cessna 182, instructed flying for a week and flew back.

The Plantation Party was attended by 2,700 members of AOPA. Hal was one of 76 instructors who taught refresher courses to 400 students.

**DINNER TONIGHT IN HONOR
OF MULLINS RETIREMENT**

Sixty-two staff members will attend a dinner in honor of Mr. Mullins' retirement at the Hartford Golf Club at 6:30 this evening. The golf club is at 134 Norwood Rd., West Hartford.

Mr. Mullins will be in his office from 1 to 3 p.m. tomorrow to see those who would like to wish him well during his retirement.

CELLAR DWELLERS IN UPSET

The upset of the bowling season occurred on Oct. 10 when cellar dwelling Broadcast House #2 met and defeated league leading Broadcast #3 -- twice.

The veteran "3" team, captained by Bill Conticello, had a 7-2 record when it met Don Fleming's "2" team, composed mainly of new bowlers. The last place team had a record that was the opposite of the league leaders, 2-7.

**NEXT CONCERT SET
FOR NOVEMBER 20**

The next Hartford Symphony concert will be on Wednesday, Nov. 20. Claudio Arrau will be soloist.

**BERNARD L. MULLINS, MAJOR FIGURE IN GROWTH,
DEVELOPMENT OF WTIC, WILL RETIRE TOMORROW**

Bernard L. Mullins, vice president - radio programs and a director of the corporation, retires tomorrow.

Mr. Mullins, an important figure in the growth and development of WTIC during the past quarter century, joined the staff as an announcer in 1935 but his association with WTIC began shortly after the station first went on the air in 1925.

An accountant and insurance salesman before joining WTIC, it was Mr. Mullins' interest in acting and singing that led him from strictly business to broadcasting. An accomplished baritone, Mr. Mullins was a well-known soloist with oratorio groups, glee clubs, and church solo quartettes on WTIC programs in the late 1920s and early '30s, and his air work as a singer led to his being hired as a spokesman for the then-Traveler Bank and Trust Co. and his employment as an announcer.

In the 1930s and early '40s, Mr. Mullins was one of the station's most popular air personalities, appearing on programs as an actor, singer and announcer. He was a member of several of the station's vocal groups, an occasional WTIC Playhouse actor and the story teller in a series entitled "Stories in Song." The stories were told by Mr. Mullins as "the Old Colonel" and appropriate songs were sung by Fred Wade. The stories were dramatizations of such short stories as "The Face on the Bar Room Floor" and were written by Leonard J. Patricelli. Actors included Academy Award winner Ed Begley, Michael O'Shea and comedian Louis Nye. At about the same time, Mr. Mullins conducted "Library of the Air," a series of readings from famous works on fiction and non-fiction on the FM station and in 1942, he became the interrogator on "Yale Interprets the News," the forerunner of "Yale Reports," a series still broadcast each Sunday by WTIC and his favorite air project. Until the beginning of the present season Mr. Mullins introduced each Yale broadcast.

Later, Mr. Mullins became a news broadcaster. For an entire year, he did only the 11 p.m. news because the sponsor required that he handle only that broadcast, and for many years, he was the station's 6 p.m. newscaster.

As chief announcer, he took part in a number of special broadcasts during the war years, including descriptions of the midnight Christmas Masses from the Windsor Locks Air Base Chapel and the tragic circus fire in 1944, which he described with George Bowe.

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BERNARD L. MULLINS WILL RETIRE TOMORROW
(Cont. from page two)

In 1946, Mr. Mullins was appointed chairman of WTIC's fire prevention campaign, which was inspired by the circus fire and other Hartford area fires that had taken scores of lives. Under Mr. Mullins' direction, the station produced as many as 25 programs on fire prevention each month, conducted fire prevention discussions in the community and sponsored a school poster contest that attracted 550 entries. As a result, WTIC became the first station in the east to receive the National Board of Fire Underwriters Gold Medal Award "for outstanding public service in fire prevention and protection."

In 1947, Mr. Mullins was promoted from manager of special programs to director of public relations and manager of special programs and named director of the annual fund drive to fight polio, then conducted by WTIC and the Hartford Courant. The Mile 0' Dimes was one of the most successful fund drives in the fight against polio in the entire nation, raising more than \$1 million.

As drive director, Mr. Mullins spent months preparing for the campaign. He was in overall charge of arranging for collections in businesses, factories and schools and the daily Main Street program from the campaign booth.

Another project of major importance directed by Mr. Mullins for many years was the WTIC and later, WTIC-TV election coverage. As coordinator of the election broadcasts, he has been responsible for outlining and supervising the duties of hundreds of persons, including reporters in each of the state's 169 towns and cities.

Mr. Mullins became vice president - public relations in 1957 and directed public relations activities surrounding WTIC-TV's first months on the air. He was named vice president - radio programs in 1959 and a director in 1962.

"WTIC QUARTETTE" MET IN CHURCH

The solo quartette at the First Church of Christ in Hartford about 30 years ago was all WTIC, but not all of its members knew that then.

The contralto was Gertrude McAuliffe, the first person to sing on WTIC; the soprano was Gertrude Clifford Brady, who was to sing on many of the station's musical programs; the tenor was Leonard J. Patricelli, then the station's first continuity writer, and the bass was Bernard L. Mullins, who would be hired a few years later as an announcer.

HABER BACK FROM EUROPEAN TRIP

Jerry Haber is back from a three-week vacation in Europe with 4,600 feet of color film--"or enough for three Big 3 Theatre shows." Jerry visited five cities. A highlight was a six-hour train ride up the Jungfrau and a night in the world's highest hotel, 11,300 feet up in the Alps.

COMPILED PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Twenty years ago, Bernard L. Mullins compiled a pronunciation guide for the announcers' use.

In the guide, he spelled every title in the station's live music and recording library phonetically. The guide is still the announcers' Bible at WTIC.

BULLETIN BECOMES A WEEKLY

The Beacon Bulletin is now being published weekly by the Travelers Insurance Co. Girl's and Men's Club notices, which were frequently published and distributed separately in the past, will be usually found in the weekly Bulletin.

**WENT TO YALE FOR 13 YEARS,
BUT DIDN'T GET A DEGREE**

Bernard L. Mullins believes he's the only man in the United States who went to a great university for 13 years without getting a degree.

He "matriculated" in 1942 when he made his first trip to Yale to broadcast the first "Yale Interprets the News" program and for 13 years he rarely missed a weekly broadcast from the New Haven campus. While the program was "live" from Yale, Mr. Mullins drove nearly 40,000 miles between Hartford and New Haven.

And even though he didn't get a degree, it was worth it. "It was a wonderful education for me," he says. "I met so many fine people, so many interesting people, that it has to be the most rewarding air experience I had at WTIC."

Incidentally, the first "Yale Interprets the News" guest was a promising young political scientist named A. Whitney Griswold, who rose to the presidency of the university.

**BROADCAST 1 FACES
KEY BOWLING TEST**

Broadcast #1, one of three WTIC teams currently engaged in kegglng competition in the Travelers Men's Club Bowling League, faces its biggest challenge since moving to the higher classification "C" League this year.

Following a disappointing season in "D" League competition, last year, Broadcast #1 is currently heading a well balanced lineup of teams in the stronger "C" League by one game. But a tough test faces captain Bob King's bowlers tonight when they face a high scoring aggregation from the Travelers Tabulating Department, its closest rival.

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**MULLINS MASS DESCRIPTION
'BETTER THAN A SERMON'**

Each Christmas Eve during World War II, Bernard L. Mullins described the Christmas midnight Mass from the Army chapel at the Windsor Locks Air Base.

After one Christmas broadcast, the Rev. John S. Kennedy, editor of The Catholic Transcript and the priest who delivered the sermon at the Mass, wrote:

"People who heard Bernard Mullins' description of the Mass over the air were deeply impressed. Waiting my moment in the sacristy, I heard some of it and I was deeply impressed. Mr. Mullins had obviously taken great pains to prepare a script which would do the Mass something like justice. He explained its various steps and quoted liberally from the liturgy. And all this was voiced both intelligently and reverently. It was better than a sermon, one told me, which was hardly a diplomatic remark, yet not so bad as 'it was better than the sermon' would have been."

This tendency to take "great pains" with any project was responsible for many of the contributions Mr. Mullins was to make to the station during his career.

**NEVER AT A LOSS FOR WORDS,
BUT ONCE DROWNED OUT**

No one has ever found Bernard L. Mullins at a loss for words, but at one point in his career, he was drowned out.

It didn't happen on the air; it happened in Washington during the hearings on the then-contested application for Channel 3 in 1954.

Mr. Mullins was testifying before Federal Examiner Fanny N. Litvin when he was interrupted by horrible noises from the hearing room radiator.

The Hartford Times reported that Mrs. Litvin's efforts to get a maintenance man were unsuccessful but the FCC came to her assistance, first when an FCC representative kicked the radiator's register to gain temporary relief, and then when he insisted that the building's maintenance men do something.

The hearing was recessed while repairs were made and then resumed, with Mr. Mullins back on the stand. But that wasn't the end.

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KEY BOWLING TEST (Cont. from page four)

The TIC boys, owners of 12 won, 6 lost record, must maintain their .666 pace by winning two of three games tonight to remain ahead of Tabulating which is 11-7 in league play.

The chore seems a difficult one considering the fact that Tabulating boasts the "C" League's high team average. Broadcast #1 will lean heavily on the scoring punch of Ernie Olivieri, fourth in high individual average with 110, and the consistent kegging of Fred Edwards, the league's 11th ranked bowler. Joe McGuinness, Al Jackson, King, Sam Balnius and Chuck Albert, all bowling below their proven potential, will be counted upon to bolster the TIC attack.

Broadcast #1 is second only to Tabulation in high team single and triple figures and the match is expected to be the highlight of the young bowling season.

WTIC-TV NEWS GETS FIRST FILM OF VALACHI HEARING FIGURE

A reporter and photographer from WTIC-TV waited three hours after other newsmen gave up and succeeded in getting the only pictures of a key figure in testimony before the Senate subcommittee investigating Cosa Nostra on Oct. 2.

Viewers across the country were able to get their first look at Girolamo Santuccio, alias Bobby Doyle, when they saw film taken by Photographer Dennis Switaj and a description of conversations WTIC-TV Assistant News Director Dick O'Brien had with Doyle on the CBS News with Walter Cronkite that night.

Santuccio was described by gangland informer Joseph Valachi as the trigger man involved in three unsolved murders in testimony before the Senate investigators Oct. 1, but at that time, Valachi mistakenly stated that Santuccio lived in Stamford, Conn.

WTIC-TV News, after checking with Stamford and State Police, learned that Doyle was living in Hartford, rather than Stamford. This was later confirmed by Hartford police and reported on WTIC-TV news that evening--more than 12 hours before Valachi corrected his own error today by testifying that he had intended to say "Hartford" when he said "Stamford."

STATE GARDEN CLUBS HONOR FRANK ATWOOD

Frank Atwood has received a certificate of achievement from the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc. for his "work with garden clubs, particularly in horticulture, and with young people, on Station WTIC."

Another certificate of achievement winner was Mrs. Richard G. Willard, who appears with Frank on "Garden Time" each Saturday. She was cited "for years of inspirational and educational work in horticulture."

NEVER AT A LOSS (Cont. from page four)

A few moments later, an elderly man walked in and said: "Do you have a noisy radiator?" Mrs. Litvin replied that it had been fixed, but the old fellow, obviously hard of hearing, took a look and said: "I can't fix this but someone will be in tomorrow."

"We ought to have a tape recording of that," someone said as the laughter died. "It was the best show of the day."

ST. JOSEPH GRADUATE JOINS PROMOTION DEPT.

Elizabeth Fallon, a June graduate of St. Joseph College, has joined the Promotion Department as a promotion assistant.

A Hartford native, Miss Fallon majored in political science and edited the college literary magazine.

TWO GIRLS GO WEST

Joan Longo of the TV Sales Dept. and receptionist Patricia McEnroe have left WTIC to work in California. Leanna Shaver, who formerly worked in a Billings, Montana bank has replaced Miss Longo.