



# TIC TOC

Vol. 4 No. 9 November 1965

**RADIO PROVIDED THE ONLY "LIGHT"  
FOR THOUSANDS IN DARKENED HOMES**

"To listen to WTIC gave us a feeling of security during the long hours of frightening power failure," wrote a West Hartford listener.

"Without knowing the details as related over WTIC, it would have been most frightening to sit in the dark and wonder," said a Winsted woman.

"We were not a bit surprised that you performed this service," a Simsbury couple wrote. "We have learned long ago that when a civic service of this sort comes up, you are the first to devote whatever time is needed to take care of it."

And a West Hartford student, listening from Ithaca College in New York, wrote: "Your coverage greatly exceeded my wildest expectations. You couldn't have hoped to do a better job."

These are just a few comments from the scores of listeners who expressed their gratitude for the information they received from WTIC during the northeast power failure Nov. 9.

Diesel powered generators at Broadcast House and Avon--plus extra effort by those on duty and many volunteers--enabled WTIC TV and Radio to permit vital, uninterrupted service to listeners and viewers during the blackout.

President Morency noted that emergency power equipment, "purchased and installed to cope with a situation of this type, kept us on the air when we were most needed by people left literally and figuratively in the dark by the power failure."

WTIC Radio abandoned regular programming completely to the vast audience listening on transistor and automobile radios. Since Channel 3 was reaching only areas that had electric service, regular programming was maintained, with blackout reports broadcast every few minutes.

Direct reports were broadcast from local and state police headquarters, power companies and installations, the governor's office and the top of the Travelers tower. The WTIC mobile unit roamed the Greater Hartford area.

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**KUNTZ, DWYER, BACK FROM VIETNAM,  
REPORT TO STAFF, PREPARE PROGRAM**

Bob Dwyer and Paul Kuntz returned to Connecticut Nov. 12 after spending 33 days in Vietnam where they interviewed more than 80 area servicemen and civilians and gathered material for an hour-long color documentary to be broadcast soon.

One of the last reports made by Paul in Vietnam and broadcast on his return sums up their experiences. It is printed in full on Page 3 of this issue of TIC TOC.

An earlier report, written for The Hartford Courant, was printed in "The Congressional Record" at the request of First District Congressman Emilio Q. Daddario.

"Paul's account highlights the dual mission of American forces, to protect the areas of civil authority and to help guide the Vietnamese on their own course toward freedom and democracy. I believe his account deserves wide distribution and I offer it for the 'Record.'"

## COMPANY AGAIN SPONSORING CHRISTMAS LIGHT FESTIVAL

Broadcast-Plaza, Inc. is again sponsoring the Christmas Festival of Light, the brilliant Christmas display that attracted thousands of visitors last year.

The lights will be turned on next Friday evening, by Billy Glynn, 7, son of Hartford Mayor and Mrs. William Glynn.

Mayor Glynn and his family will welcome Santa Claus after he descends from atop the Connecticut.

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## ELLSWORTH WILL JOIN AD AGENCY; TWO ANNOUNCERS ADDED TO STAFF

Bob Ellsworth, a member of the announcing staff for more than nine years, leaves the stations at the end of November to become vice president of the Jay Grant Advertising Agency in Hartford.

At the Grant Agency, he will be in charge of the development of the agency's public relations division and coordinator of broadcasting and marketing programs. He plans to continue to do free-lance radio and television work and lecture and write for newspapers and magazines.

Ellsworth, who delivered the first newscast on Channel 3 in September 1957, is a veteran of 20 years with Channel 7 in New York and Channel 18 in Hartford before coming to WTIC.

There have also been two additions to the announcing staff this month.

Larry Blair joined the staff earlier this month from WJLK in Asbury Park, N.J. An announcer and newscaster, he was also in charge of the station's public affairs programming.

Blair's career began in 1948 as the first child disc jockey in broadcasting with WLJB in New York. He was 13 at the time.

He had quite an introduction to the Greater Hartford area when he was assigned to roam the area in the mobile unit during the power blackout Nov. 9.

Bill Hanson, described by "The Boston Globe" as one of the best known radio voices in the Boston area, joins the Staff Nov. 22.

For a number of years, he has been host of WEEI's "Music 'til Dawn."

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## CHRISTMAS LIGHT FESTIVAL (continued from page 1)

cut Bank and Trust Co. building at One Constitution Plaza in the motorized window washer's gondola. Santa will go from the decorated gondola to the platform near the fountain and present the golden key to young Billy.

Billy will represent children from all over southern New England when he turns the key to light the 140,000 Plaza lights, the 70,000 lights on the trees of the Travelers Tower Square and the thousands more around the nearby Phoenix Mutual and Hartford Steam Boiler buildings. Billy's key will also symbolically illuminate the 100,000 multi-colored globes of light on the streets of downtown Hartford.

Mayor Glynn, Gladden W. Baker, chairman of Broadcast-Plaza, Inc., and Samuel Einstein, Retail Trade Bureau chairman, will speak briefly.

Songs of the season will be performed by the 60 male voices of the Choral Club of Greater Hartford under the direction of Eugene Christy.

The 15-minute ceremony, which attracted many thousands last year, will be televised "live" by WTIC-TV and broadcast by WTIC Radio.

An outstanding feature of this year's "Festival of Light" will be a greatly expanded fountain display. Last year's three tiers of lights will be replaced by five tiers of lights over the fountain's granite slabs. Single tiers of lights, similar to those on the fountain will also "flow" from each flag pole.

The Plaza clock tower will resemble a giant candle stick, surrounded by a base of 16-foot spruce trees and topped with a star burst of light.

Angels and reindeer sculptured by Miss Valerie Clarebout of New Fairfield will again be an important feature of the Christmas display, and this year, there will be more of them.

Eight trumpeting angels will flank the walks on the north and south side of the fountain and a family of reindeer will graze near the Plaza entrance to Broadcast House.

A 30 by 20-foot tableau of five angels will be projected in bas-relief from the north side of the Phoenix Mutual building, facing the State Street bridge that connects the building and the Plaza.

KUNTZ TELLS OF DANGERS ENCOUNTERED COVERING WAR  
IN COUNTRY WHERE 'WAR SURROUNDS YOU, ENVELOPS YOU'

War is dangerous. There is no getting around that fact...and Bob Dwyer and I have found this war in Vietnam is probably one of the most dangerous in history.

It is dangerous for the fighting man...but it is also proving equally dangerous for the newsmen and photographers who do their best to give the people at home the stories and pictures of what is happening.

Recently, perhaps you noticed the story out of Vietnam about the combat death of Dickey Chappelle, the woman war correspondent who had covered three major wars...and died in a Viet Cong booby trap here in Vietnam.

Bob and I had the privilege of meeting and talking with Dickey Chappelle at the Da Nang press center while we were up there several weeks ago. She was a wonderful, colorful woman, a gal all the Marines knew and loved, a person I am sure they mourn. Her death, I think, illustrates some of the many dangers involved in this war, a war that surrounds you, envelops you. Danger that is always with you.

As I write and record this story I can hear the big artillery guns booming out their message of death at Bien Hoa, just a few miles from Saigon. One of our first nights here we noticed flashes on the horizon. We asked one of the old-timers and he said it was the artillery firing at Bien Hoa. Naive, we thought he was kidding...figured it was lighting...and it did rain that night. But, we have seen these same flashes every night we have spent in Saigon since then, and most of these nights it did not rain. Early one morning, Bob and I awoke in our Saigon hotel room to a noise that sounded like someone rattling our door. I got up, checked in the hall, saw no one and went back to bed. The rattling continued. Later, we were told the rattling was caused by the big B-52 bombers from Guam dropping their bombs in the Bien Hoa area not far away.

In a sense this is a commuter war. As we drove out to Bien Hoa one morning, we topped a ridge and could just barely see, at the horizon, another ridgeline which was being pestered by a string of jet bombers. We could see the brief flash of the silver wings as the jets dipped in for their strike, then just a pinpoint puff on the hillside as the bombs hit. There also have been cases of American advisors to Vietnamese military units, maintaining their quarters in Saigon, getting up in the morning, strapping on a cartridge belt and pack, picking up a rifle...and taking a taxicab to their combat advisory post.

Bob and I left Hartford with instructions not to take any unnecessary personal risks. We have not taken any undue risks, but just being in Vietnam means some risk for everyone, civilian or military.

When we flew to Da Nang to do our interviews with the Marines we stayed at a press center along the Da Nang River, a very comfortable room. But the first night there, we heard a half dozen shots right outside the guarded compound in which we slept. Inquiries brought no definite answers from the Marines. The center, incidentally, is located just across the river from the Marblehead Mountain airfield which was raided by the Viet Cong suicide squads about a week or so after we left Da Nang.

On another occasion, we were just leaving a Marine artillery unit when shots rang out along its defensive perimeter. This was in mid-day...and at least 75 Vietnamese civilians were picking up scrap metal and wood in the area from which the shots came. One Marine officer said, "look at them. Any of them could have fired those shots, then dropped or hidden the rifle. How can we possibly tell which one."

## ATWOOD WILL RECEIVE NATIONAL 4-H AWARD

Frank Atwood, farm programs director of WTIC TV and Radio, will receive a major national award from the National Assn. of County 4-H Club Agents in Chicago next month.

Atwood is one of three persons selected by the organization to receive its "Friend of 4-H" award, presented in recognition of the recipients' long-time service to youth. The award is being presented to Atwood for his contributions to 4-H as host of his radio and television programs and in recognition of WTIC's Farm Youth Program, which provides interest-free loans to youngsters who wish to purchase dairy calves.

Atwood will accept the award at the Association's "Distinguished Service Banquet" at the Pick Congress Hotel in Chicago on Dec. 1.

A member of the WTIC staff since 1946, Atwood has long been active in 4-H work. Prior to joining WTIC, he was associated with the Agricultural Extension Service at the University of Connecticut and for 10 years, he was a reporter and political writer for The Hartford Courant. He is a resident of Manchester.

While in Chicago, Atwood will attend the National 4-H Club Dairy Conferency with three youngsters who were awarded trips by WTIC in recognition of their outstanding performances as dairymen: Robert Mac Conald, 17, of Andover, Conn.; John Collins, 18, of Hazardville, Conn., and John Deveno, 18, of Southwick, Mass.

## BLACKOUT (continued from page 1)

"I think we succeeded in eliminating undue alarm by the manner in which we broadcast all available information," said Mr. Morency.

## SMITH STILL HAS FIRST RECORDS BOUGHT FROM SELLING PAPERS

When Robert E. Smith was a boy in Philadelphia, he helped see to it that 'nearly everyone in Philadelphia reads The Bulletin.'

Smith was an enthusiastic newspaper salesman in order to get as much record-buying money as he could every week. The records he bought then--on the \$6 a week he earned selling "Bulletins"--represented the beginning of a collection of opera recordings that now numbers more than 30,000 and is still growing at a space gobbling rate at Smith's Bloomfield home.

For the past 20 years, this collection has enabled Smith to make a living through his hobby--something few of us can do.

Smith was director of auditions at NBC in 1945 when Leonard J. Patricelli, then WTIC program manager of WTIC, invited him to become host of "Your Box at the Opera," a program devoted to recordings by the world's greatest opera stars.

"I had met Mr. Patricelli many times at NBC because he frequently came to New York to hear young singers and engage them for 'Encores,' a program produced by WTIC and carried nationally on NBC. On one occasion, I invited him to hear some of my recordings and after we played some and talked about the artists, he said, 'you've just given me an audition' and asked me to become host of the new opera program on WTIC."

In 17 years at NBC as auditions director and personal representative for such radio personalities as Gertrude Berg and John Charles Thomas, Smith had never been on the air.

"I would have been nervous on that first Sunday broadcast 20 years ago, but the good old New Haven was late and I just made it--too late to be nervous."

During his first two years on the air, Smith commuted to Hartford every Sunday morning and returned in the afternoon. When WTIC added the daily "Theatre of Melody" in 1947, he joined the station's staff on a full-time basis and settled in Bloomfield.

In the past two decades, the Smith collection of rare and outstanding opera recordings has provided hundreds of hours of fine music for WTIC listeners.

DICK BRONSON WRITES  
LETTER TO STAFF FRIENDS

Dick Bronson, who left the staff in the fall to study broadcasting at Leland Powers in Boston, sends the following:

"I'm sending you this letter with the hope that you may be able to use part or all of it in the next issue of TIC TOC. I would like to write every person at WTIC individually but I simply haven't got the time (or the stamps). I hope they understand.

"I've meant to write ever since I've been in Boston but the truth of the matter is that I've had so much homework I hardly ever have any spare time. The experience I gained at WTIC has proved to have been a valuable asset. I feel that I have a great advantage over the other students in the school because I was fortunate enough to have worked at Broadcast House. Everyone was such a great help to me that it would be impossible to single out one or two individuals. I would just like to say that I guess a fellow never actually realizes the wonderful friendships that he has acquired with his fellow employees until he leaves. It may sound corny but I miss the whole gang back at WTIC.

"I receive a copy of each TIC TOC so I am able to keep abreast of the goings on at WTIC.

"It is hard for me to express my feelings so let me sum up by just saying.....THANKS."

HAL KOLB AT HOME  
AFTER OPERATION

Hal Kolb is out of the hospital and resting at home after last month's surgery.

Mrs. Kolb reports he's making good progress.

There is also good news about the Kolbs' daughter, who presented a Carnegie Hall concert, performing works of her own composition on the clarinet earlier this month. The New York newspapers thought very highly of the concert.

BROOKS TO APPEAR  
IN NEW MUSICAL

WTIC alumnus Lawrence Brooks, the singer-actor with the big bass-baritone voice, will play the supporting role of a Russian nobleman in "ANYA", opening Nov. 29 at the Ziegfeld in New York. He will also be understudy for Michael Kermoyan.

NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL  
IN PHOTOGRAPHY DEPT.

It wasn't quite "business as usual" in the Photo Department in recent weeks.

Bob Dwyer has been out of town and Dennis Switaj has been out of the office, recovering from a dislocated shoulder--the result of a fall.

But even with staff shortages, the department managed to shoot the usual amount of news film, plus four "Perception" programs. In recent weeks, Dick Heinze has filmed programs on the Hartford Stage Company, Robert E. Smith's anniversary as host of "Your Box at the Opera," World War I planes and the anniversary of the Most Rev. Walter Grey, Episcopal Bishop of Connecticut.

At the conclusion of the program on his anniversary, Bishop Grey turned to director Jack Guckin and said everything had gone well, "considering I had so little time to teach Dick Bertel."

KINGSLEYS WELCOME  
THIRD GRANDCHILD

The Ed Kingsleys recently flew to Marietta, Georgia to welcome the arrival of their new granddaughter, Karen Lisa Johansen.

Karen is the third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon L. Johansen. Mrs. Johansen is the former Joan Kingsley--and grandmother Sally Kingsley is a former member of the WTIC family.

NEXT CONCERT

The next concert in this season's HARTFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA SERIES IS December 8. Nathan Milstein, violinist will be the guest.