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Complete TV Listings Dec 26 - Jan 1





George Vukelich

"Hambone" Billy Patrick

Many radio personalities have started their careers without previous auditions but Hambone Billy Patrick of WKOW Radio, Madison, was hired as a result of an unknown auditioner.

Patrick (whose real name is George Vukelich) was auditioned by a Toronto, Canada, Radio Network. After he was hired, it was learned an engineer had pushed the wrong button and while he was orating into a dead mike, the executives watching him through a glass partition were actually listening to the audition of some never-to-be-known voice in another studio.

The Toronto Network assigned him to station CJKL, a small station about 400 miles North in the gold fields.

When asked about his name "Hambone" he said, "That was bestowed on me by some of my jazz musician friends when they learned I read my own poetry on the "Jazz is My Beat" program."

Patrick served in Europe during World War II with the Air Force. He became a disc jockey while recovering in a military hospital from an accident. The hospital had a closed circuit radio program, and he was assigned to play the records and emcee the shows as part of his therapeutic treatment.

"It was therapy at the time," says Patrick, "but that was the birth of 'Jazz is My Beat.' It's still therapeutic. If it weren't I'd take

up something more practical like golf or drinking."

Patrick's first love is creative writing. He has written radio scripts for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, articles for The Milwaukee Journal, poetry for Botteghe Oscure of Rome, Italy, and short stories for the Atlantic Monthly.

He is currently revising a first novel Fisherman's Beach, which is to be published by St. Martin's Press, publishers of "Anatomy Of A Murder." He is now Creative Director of Electrical Utilities Television, a national firm with headquarters in Madison.

Patrick is happily married, lives in a modern split-level girls' dormitory with his wife Helen and four daughters: Susan, Martha, Donna, and Jo Ann. And Kristie, a six-month old German Shepherd pup. Naturally Kristie too is a lady.

Before going with his present Company, Patrick had been on the announcing staff of WKOW some years ago. He was a continuity writer and staff announcer. As Patrick says "I used to spend 40 hours on continuity writing and 33 1/2 hours on the air each week, which amounts to 73 1/2 hours. And I gave it up to take on a position with a little more leisure to give me more time for my favorite hobby, trout fishing."