

THE STUDY OF MUSIC AT WORK

The Birth of the Blues—

Walt Disney's Seven Dwarfs weren't the only ones who whistled while they worked.

Since the beginning of time, men have worked to music. The chant of the Volga Boatman, the plaintive song of the cowboy on the lone prairie, and the chantey of the sailor man as he bent his back to the halyard, were all work songs.

They rose from the throats of these working men spontaneously. No one ever asked them why they sang. Probably they themselves never thought about it very much. But today, knowing what we do, we can hazard a pretty good guess. They sang because it made them feel better! They sang because it made their work easier, because it relieved fatigue and boredom, and because it helped to lighten their tasks.

No, there is nothing very new about the subject of music at work.

The Voice of the Machine—

As America felt the first growing pains of industrialism, the voice of the machine replaced the voice of the worker. Man moved out of the fields and shops into great factories. Men and women stood by their machines, their benches and forges, with nothing in their ears but the continuous, monotonous, day-after-day sounds that accompanied their particular type of work.

The machine of the Industrial Revolution has done more than merely replace the skill of individual hands. They had taken away the spontaneous song of the working man, too.

The Re-Birth of An Idea—

Just before the turn of the century, Thomas Edison had an idea about music in industry. He had already captured music on a cylinder. The next step was logical. Why not bring this "Mechanical Music" to the men and women who worked in mills and factories? And others beside Edison had the idea that music might be substituted for the "readers," who provided diversion for the workers in a few industries at that time.

Lessons Learned During The Blitz—

In England, sound equipment became compulsory in all plants and factories during the early months of war, for the simple reason that sound systems proved to be the quickest and most efficient way to warn workers of the danger of an air raid. But it was discovered, too, that much of this sound equipment could also be used for the reproduction of music in the war plants. The British Broadcasting Company cooperated with special programs. And so, almost over night, music at work became an established fact throughout all of England.

In this country, the idea for music for the worker was catching on, too. The word began to spread through management that

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CELEBRATING V-E DAY



Mrs. Eugenia Hall celebrated V-E Day in the above pictured fashion. She has two sons in the European theatre, Sgt. Charles R. Hall and Pvt. Bob Hall. She insisted on looping Army Socks but did bring in the radio to the bench and fellow-workers affixed the flags over her looper. Mrs. Hall has been an employee for Melrose for six years.

IN REPLY TO YOUR LETTER, SOLDIER

"You asked how things are going at home. Whether we're in this thing with you . . . up to the hilt. And how you'll find things when you come back.

"Pretty plain English, son, when you wrote, 'the U. S. A. had damn well better be what we're fighting for when we return'.

"Most of us feel just that way about it. And we're talking about the same things.

"The big job of helping you get this fight over with . . . fast. That comes first. And let no one tell you that isn't the grim resolve in the heart of every real American over this nation.

"Millions of hands will keep on working to deliver into your hands a safer, harder-fighting plane . . . a faster, surer motor . . . a stronger ship . . . a better gun . . . until your enemy and ours is silenced.

"But what then? Well, son, we give it back to you in plain English. If the brains and hands and skill that have organized and produced so successfully for death and destruction cannot turn with equal skill to the bigger work of peace . . . then we shall have hopelessly failed ourselves as well as you.

"It's pretty simple, isn't it, the thing you want when this is done. A job—not charity. The privilege of returning to your place in a free man's world. This reward you will have earned, soldier—a reward we are working to guarantee you—the unfettered opportunity to build the kind of life you want to live—when you come back."



THE AMERICAN'S CREED

"I believe in the United States of America, as a Government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a Democracy in a Republic; A Sovereign Nation of many Sovereign States; a perfect Union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of Freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

"I, therefore, believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies."

1787: WE, THE PEOPLE —

"We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

(This is the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America, drawn at the Constitutional Convention held in Philadelphia, May 29, 1787, at which all the States were represented except Rhode Island. Among those delegates present were George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison.) This is the second of a series of paragraphs culled from various sources of Americanism.

REVIEW SUGGESTION AWARDS REPORTS

There follows tabulation of all suggestions made since the system was installed in December:

The name of the suggestor and the amount awarded in stamps or bonds and the disposition of the suggestion is briefly stated: SEAMLESS:

The Supply Room has been built and equipped (\$25.00 each to Milford Smith and Hurley Blizzard) Tickets on lots have been modified with large rubber stamp readily seen (Milton Setzer, \$10.00). First Aid cabinets are being built (Lois Browder, \$5.00.)

Presentee charts, with recognition for employees not having any absenteeism have been posted, (Hurley Blizzard, \$5.00.)

These five suggestions are being held for consideration:

Ns. 837936, No. 837955, No. 837942, No. 837921, No. 839741.

These deal with fixers, knitters and loopers and suggest methods for applying bonus award suggested by Roy Wayne of the F. F. Plant.

The slide door is in operation at Boarding Room No. 2, (J. D. Faulkenberry, \$5.00.)

The safety platform has been installed at the entrance of Personnel Dept. (Jewel Bowers, \$5.00.)

The rest room for women is now equipped and ready. (Mrs. Clodfelter, \$5.00.)

The device for lacing belts is in operation. (C. B. Nifong and Milford Smith, \$5.00 each.)

The yarn bins are marked with movable signs. (R. H. Blalock, \$5.00; Hurley Blizzard, \$2.50.)

Suggestion No. 8520 and No. 8413, dealing with keeping records, are being held for consideration, if and when engineers install complete system.

Suggestion No. 8557 is held pending possible installation of new system in the dye house. If partitions in the trucks are practical, suggestion will be recognized.

The morale posters have been printed and posted. (Hurley Blizzard, \$10.00.)

The public address system is in process of being installed. (Hurley Blizzard, \$25.00.)

New supervisory set-up has been established in upper floor of Mill No. 2. (Roy Yarborough, \$10.00. Ernest Patton, \$5.00, and Carl Barker, \$5.00.)

The inspecting boards are being painted black. (Mrs. Helms, \$5.00.)

The rack for placing throw-outs is to be installed. (Roy Smith, \$5.00.)

The elevator is to be made safe as soon as the contractor can do the work. (Hurley Blizzard, \$5.00)

Checking of tardiness at the gate has been installed. (\$25.00 war bond has not been claimed.)

The dyeing of lot sacks green is nearly completed. (\$5.00 to Milford Smith.)

FULL FASHION PLANT—

The suggestion to grant bonus to the worker having the least amount of bad work at the end of a given period is approved. This suggestion was subject to modification and application in each of the three plants. (Roy Wayne \$25.00.)

The suggestion for putting the
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