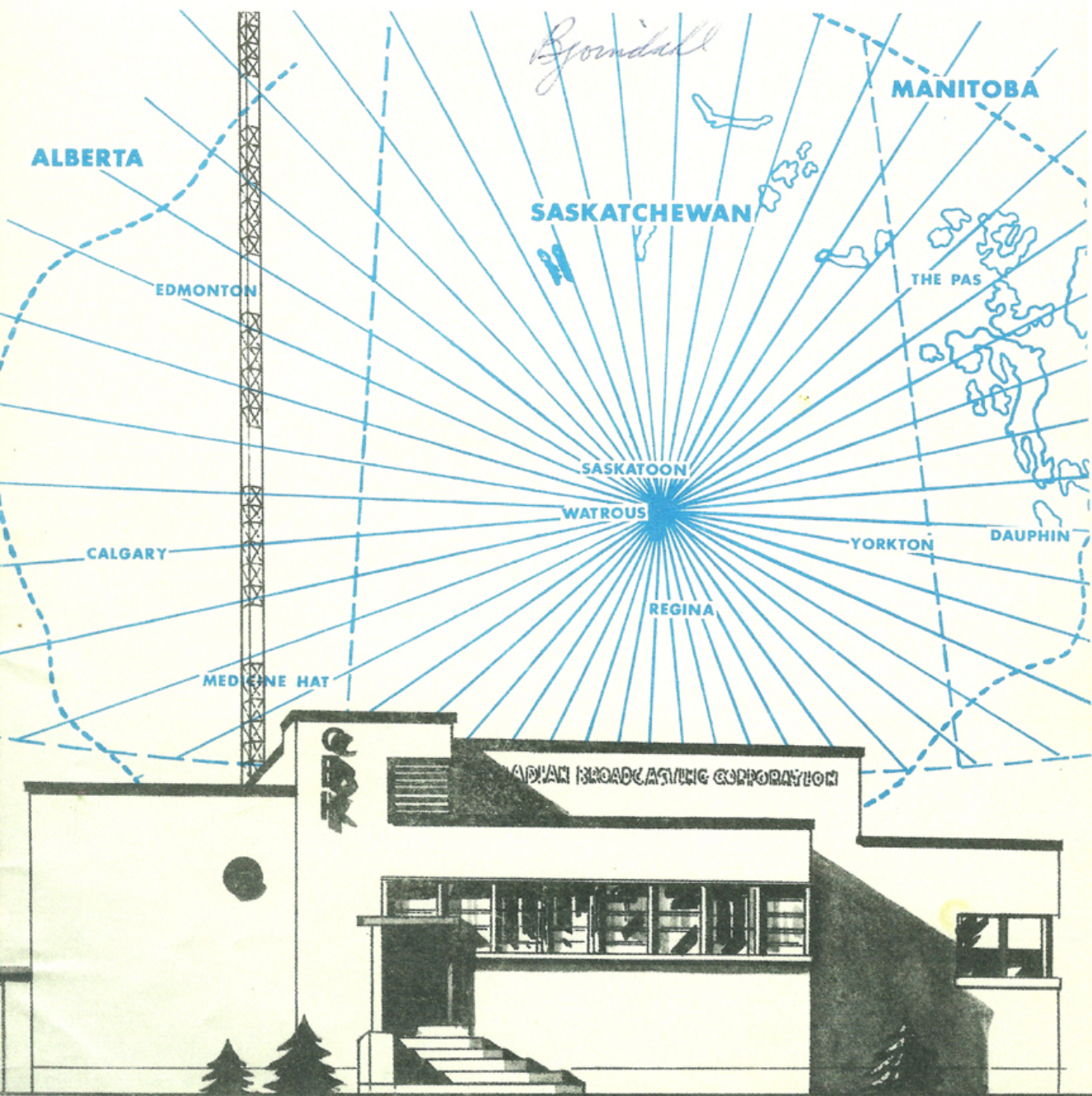


CBC TIMES



CBK SASKATCHEWAN 25 YEARS

CBK comes in strong in much of Alberta, Manitoba and even Texas

radio service was more important than mere safety, so the station went back to full power and stayed there for the duration.

Yet caution had to be observed at all times, for it was soon discovered that CBK was one of the world's really great radio stations. The engineers who did the preliminary site work had chosen well. In the salt marshes around Watrous, ground conductivity was excellent, and the prairie terrain spreading around the town for hundreds of miles in every direction was ideal for radio transmission — almost as good, the engineers said, as the ocean itself. CBK's primary strength signal extended from mid-Alberta in the west to western Manitoba in the east, and from the pre-Cambrian belt in the north to Texas in the south. A new and very powerful voice had been added to Canadian broadcasting in this, the fourth of the CBC's 50,000-watt transmitters, a worthy follower of CBL, Toronto; CBV, Vercheres, Quebec; and CBA, Maritime station at Sackville, N.B.

The far-sighted people who had foreseen the need for wide-reaching and intensive radio coverage were soon fully justified. Simply as a network outlet, CBK rendered great services during the war. It was over this transmitter at Christmas, 1939, that hundreds of thousands of rural prairie dwellers heard the King deliver the famous speech in which he quoted Minnie Louise Haskins' courageous words:

"And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown. And he replied: Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way."

And it was over CBK also

that, again and again, the voice of Winston Churchill was carried to the West, in the celebrated speeches that stirred the world and roused the spirit of victory in Canadians as in everyone else.

One of CBK's most crucial war-time tests came as the war neared its close. The big Prairie Region transmitter went on 24-hour continuous service for a full week before V-E Day on May 8th, 1945, except for one period of 3½ hours. In the early part of the operation, CBK nearly had to leave the air because of extreme high temperatures in the big 100 k.w. amplifier tubes when the water supply for the heat exchanger cooling system failed due to a broken pipe in the water mains of the town. Dick Punshon, racking his brains for a solution to this emergency, managed to collect enough ice to pack inside and around the unit and to keep the temperature within the margin of safety. Overheating of tubes, however, remained a constant concern of the engineers during this critical period of continuous broadcasting. This service was maintained to keep listeners abreast of the latest news developments, with bulletins coming hot-foot every half-hour or so from the CBC's Prairie Re-

gion Newsroom. Soon, CBK listeners heard the King again—

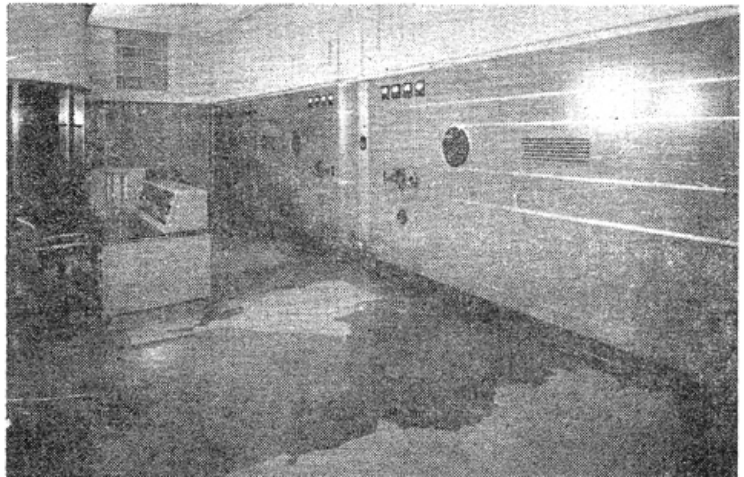
"Let us remember those who will not come back.

... We have come to the end of our tribulation and they are not with us at the moment of our rejoicing."

The war was over, and from CBK's over-taxed staff there certainly went up a long sigh of relief.

In the post-war years, CBK's task continued, with constantly changing circumstances and problems. The same transmitter as the engineers installed in 1939 still serves the prairies, and it remains one of the most powerful and far-reaching radio stations in the world. Engineers have estimated that so excellent is CBK's site and surrounding coverage area, equal results in such a location as, say, Toronto, would take an output of at least 200,000 watts, four times as great as CBK's.

Although two studios in the transmitter building served as announcers' booths from the beginning, CBK did not have the facilities for extensive local programming until October, 1954, when studios were opened in Regina, managed by R. H. Roberts. Engineer in charge at Watrous now is George McFayden.



Inside the transmitter building at Watrous. The floor covering is in the design of a map of Canada, with radio stations at the time of construction indicated on it.

Guards kept a 24-hour watch against saboteurs during the war

Corporation, who also spoke, and a little later listeners heard the voice of W. S. Paley, president of the Columbia Broadcasting System in the United States. The Premiers of the Prairie Provinces followed — Hon. John Bracken of Manitoba, Hon. W. J. Patterson of Saskatchewan, and the late Hon. William Aberhart of Alberta.

So began CBC radio services in Saskatchewan, and, so far as transmitters were concerned, on the Prairies; it was not until 1948, under the present Prairie Regional Director, J. R. Finlay, that prairie services were rounded out with the opening of CBK's sister stations CBW, Manitoba, and CBX, Alberta;

and not until 1954 that the Saskatchewan organization was completed with the official opening of the Regina studios under the management of R. H. Roberts.

The new station's history, from its inauguration to 1945 and after, was one of austere and strenuous war-time service. Dick Punshon, who became Engineer in Charge in 1942 (he's now Radio Technical Director at Winnipeg), recalls the constant difficulty of short supply as perhaps his worst problem, particularly in the case of the transmitter's big 100 k.w. amplifier tubes, brought in from RCA in the United States. It took constant ingenuity to keep

the station on the air.

There were problems of security. A guard house was set up near the transmitter tower, with a sand-bag barrier around the insulator, and barbed wire entanglements all around the site. Watrous townsmen, sworn in as deputy constables by the RCMP, patrolled the area day and night. For a time, fears were expressed that enemy aircraft might come in to Canadian targets on CBK's far-reaching carrier-wave, and demands were made that the 50,000-watt power should be cut. This was actually done for one day, during which CBK operated on 1,000 watts, but after that, prairie people thought their

LATE NOTES & CORRECTIONS

MONDAY, JULY 20th

RADIO

1:15 p.m.—Maurice Pearson Show
Guest today is Tommy Ambrose.

2:03 p.m.—Side by Side
(2:33 p.m. on CBX)

Medley from Guys and Dolls; Richard Burton reading the humorous Thomas Hardy poem, *Timing Her*; *How To Be Seventy*, by Mark Twain, read by Hal Holbrook; a Noel Coward poem entitled 1901, which commemorates the death of Queen Victoria.

7:20 p.m.—Speaking Personally

Don McGill, a Montreal broadcaster talks about the ancient city of Petra which is carved out of red rock in the Jordanian desert.

7:45 p.m.—Life and Literature

The speaker today is the professor of English from the University of Manitoba, Geoffrey Durrant, who was originally scheduled to speak on July 13th.

TUESDAY, JULY 21st

TELEVISION

The Planemakers

Sugden, now well used to his new job as general works manager at Scott Furlong, enlists the aid of Hamilton, the chief buyer's assistant, in completing an engineering job on the new Sovereign aircraft. Hamilton sees this as an opportunity to undermine his boss, who is away on vacation.

RADIO

7:20 p.m.—Speaking Personally

David Halton, Canadian commentator stationed in Paris, reports on a French hydro-electric plant which makes use of the tides in the English Channel at the mouth of the Rance River in Brittany.

10:30 p.m.—Music Scene

Marcel Levesque and his small, distinctively French group play jazz. Vocalist Claire Duval is featured.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22nd

RADIO

1:15 p.m.—Maurice Pearson Show

Guest today is drummer Ron Rully.

2:03 p.m.—Side-by-Side
(2:33 p.m. on CBX)

A Nichols and May sketch about doctors; a sketch about rock and roll singers done by Peter Sellers; theatre lobby routine done by Danny Kaye; Bertrand Russell reminisces about one of his masters at Cambridge; Jonathan Miller of *Beyond the Fringe* cast gives his interpretation of Bertrand Russell; Sviatoslav Richter performance of Rondo from Beethoven's Concerto No. 1.

3:30 p.m.—Matinee Theatre

The Waiting Room, by Gordon Ruttan will be heard instead of the play indicated in the last issue.

9:30 p.m.—CBC Strings

Conducted by Ernesto Barbini, with soloists Mary Morrison and Sigmund Steinberg;

WEEK OF JULY 18th - 24th 1964

Because each issue of the CBC Times must be mailed so far in advance of the program week covered in it, some changes in scheduling and in program content are inevitable. These are noted below.

Trois Poems de Jacques Prevert for soprano and string orchestra Harry Freedman
Concerto in D major for violin and two string orchestras Vivaldi

THURSDAY, JULY 23rd

RADIO

2:03 p.m.—Side-By-Side
(2:33 p.m. on CBX)

Show is built around Broadway performance by Carol Channing and contains background about her career and excerpts from the shows *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* and *Hello Dolly*.

9:00 p.m.—Soundings

An inquiry into the vast goldmine of teenage spending in Great Britain, prepared by Alan Little.

FRIDAY, JULY 24th

RADIO

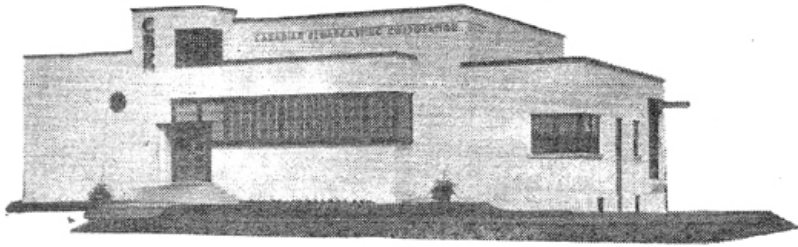
1:15 p.m.—Maurice Pearson Show
Guest today is singer Betty Robertson.

2:03 p.m.—Side-By-Side
(2:33 p.m. on CBX)

Reading of a Robbie Burns poem; recording of the song, *A Hundred Pipers*; a reading by John Barrymore from Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*; a temperance lecture read by humourist W. C. Fields; a telephone sketch by Nichols and May; overture from *Bells Are Ringing*.

7:20 p.m.—Speaking Personally

Robert Orchard, Vancouver writer and broadcaster, talks about the turbulent Skeena River in northern B.C.



by C. E. L'AMT

FEW RADIO STATIONS, and perhaps few ships, can have had stormier launchings than Station CBK, the CBC's 50,000-watt transmitter at Watrous, Sask.—just 25 years ago in the hot July of the fateful year 1939.

Events, big, spectacular, and exciting, crowded on CBK's small staff of ten while they were still without a home base and were practically camping on location. Months before the official opening on July 29th, with transmitter, transmitter building, and staff housing far from complete, they were scattered about the Prairie Provinces on the largest national coverage operation of the CBC's history to that date—the Royal Tour of 1939. King George VI and Queen Elizabeth (now the Queen Mother) travelled across Canada that year, stopping at many places large and small. Watrous was one of the stops. For weeks before the Tour's arrival in the West, the CBK staff under Roy Cahoon, then engineer in charge (now the CBC's Chief Engineer, stationed at Montreal), had been out on the country roads around the transmitter site practicing with remote equipment, preparing for the big job, during which they covered Tour events in Winnipeg, Regina, and Calgary. Mr. Cahoon, in many ways CBK's true pioneer, had been at the site for some time, assembling a staff, supervising installations, and watching supplies. The staff had been together only a little while before these heavy responsibilities descended on them.

And, as if this were not enough, looming in the near future, only a month or so after the official opening, was the beginning of World War II.

CBK's official opening took place in the basement of the United

Church at Watrous. John Kanna-win, now Director of Radio Operations and Program Services at CBC Toronto, produced and announced the inaugural program. Dick Claringbull, now Administrative Assistant to Charles Jennings, Ottawa, CBC General Manager of Regional Broadcasting, was Prairie Regional Representative. The first greeting on the program was from the late Hon. C. D. Howe, minister of transport, speaking from Ottawa, and he was followed by the Chairman of the CBC Board of Governors, L. W. Brockington, speaking from London, England, via shortwave. With Mr. Brockington was F. W. Ogilvie, Director-General of the British Broadcasting

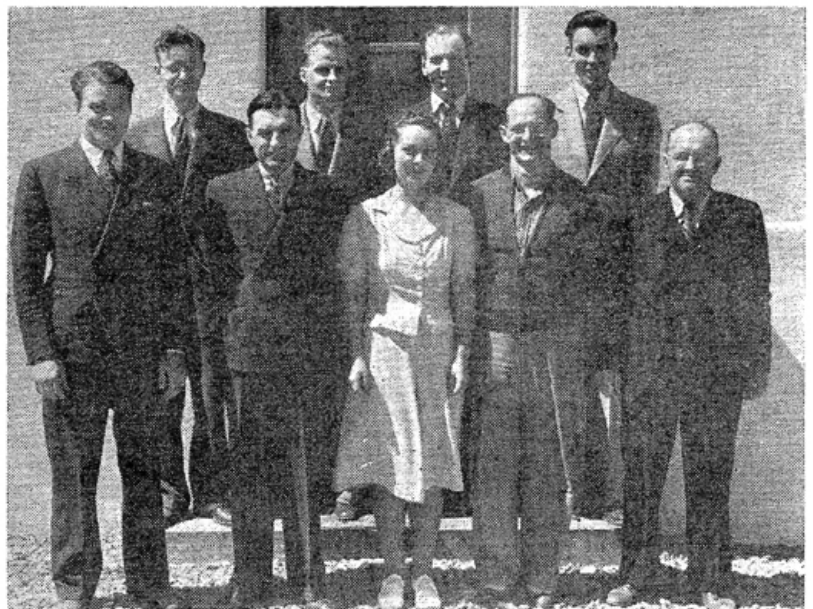
(Continued overleaf)

CBK SASKATCHEWAN

25th Anniversary

One of the world's most powerful radio stations marks its silver anniversary on July 29th.

A special program that day at 3:00 p.m. on CBK will recall the station's early days and broadcast messages of congratulations.



Original staff of CBK included, front row, left to right, Roy D. Cahoon, engineer in charge (now CBC's chief engineer, stationed in Montreal); R. L. Punshon (now technical director, radio, CBC Winnipeg); Pat Henderson (now Mrs. Cosh), Sam Haggerty, and W. W. Grant (later engineer-in-charge, CBX Alberta, now retired). Back row: C. F. Patterson, Lawrence Marshall (later engineer-in-charge, 1941-42, now CBC's Assistant Transmission and Development Engineer, Montreal), Al Sheffield, and Paul Johnson. Missing is Roy Murdock, caretaker.