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The Radio Workshop

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Abstract

THIS is WOI— The radio voice of Iowa State College—640 on your dial. . .” I looked up from my chem book. WOI! That’s right! I had heard there was a radio station here on campus. But how did one go about getting in on some of the exciting phases of radio work?..
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"THIS is WOI—The radio voice of Iowa State College—640 on your dial..." I looked up from my chem book. WOI! That's right! I had heard there was a radio station here on campus. But how did one go about getting in on some of the exciting phases of radio work? Maybe I could do some script writing, or some part-time announcing, or some acting. Maybe I could do some news broadcasting. Other students were doing it. Just because I'm enrolled in an agricultural school, do I have to give up all hopes of doing these things I'd like to do?

I began asking questions. "Where is the radio station? Where are the WOI studios?" Upper classmen roommates scornfully informed me that WOI was on the third floor of the Service Building. "Oh? And where is the Service Building?" Everybody knows—straight west of the library. "What is this Radio Theater Workshop? Can just anybody get in on that?" Everybody I asked, said, "Why don't you find out?" So I did!

I went to the Service Building determined to see someone—anyone, who could tell me how I might get started in radio. It turned out that Mr. Ed Wegener was the one to see. He cheerfully gave me a short history of the Radio Theater Workshop, how it is organized, and the practical experience and enjoyment it offers students who are interested in radio work.

A major part of the work of the Workshop is devoted to the children's program every afternoon. Maybe you've never heard this student-written, student-enacted program, and even if you had, probably you didn't sit cross-legged on the floor, enthralled; but the kids around Iowa State have an emphatically different view.
The children's program began with *Tom Sawyer* three years ago, under the direction of Ed Wegener. Since then, *Alice in Wonderland, The Wizard of Oz, Peter Pan, and The Nome King of Oz* have been produced. This year, adaptations of the Greek myths are proving that modern youngsters are just as interested in the colorful adventures of Zeus, Aphrodite, and Athena as we were when we heard those tales. Besides this major production, the Workshop helps dramatize such other programs as the Safety Council and Science Day.

Mr. Wegener emphasized that these productions are student planned, written, acted and produced, covering a wide field of practical experience ranging all the way from proper timing to the arrangement of musical background and sound effects.

At this point, I asked Mr. Wegener what went on at the regular Thursday night meetings of the Workshop. "Why don't you attend one and see for yourself?" he suggested. So I did!

There were about twenty students there, representing practically all divisions of the college, from Home Ec. to E. E.'s. Groups of two or three were giving short five-minute programs from one of the sound studios while Mr. Wegener and the rest listened and took notes in an adjoining studio. Then transcriptions that had been made of these programs were played back to the entire group and criticisms offered. Some of these criticisms were sharp but constructive, and some of them were complimentary. Each actor was shown exactly how he could work on improvement. Everyone there seemed eager to improve and to help others improve.

Once you drop in at Radio Theater Workshop, you'll find yourself going back there the next Thursday night at 7:30. I did!  
—Nancy Stewart, Sci. Fr.