

The Mutual Manhattan

VARIETY CAVALCADE

*Johnny
Cantone*

*Anne
Collier*

*Clifton
Feddington*

*Geneva Lee
Browne*

*Neal
Tilden*

*B.J.
Gibson*

*Connie
Miller*

*Ray
Owen*

Clifton A. Feddington and Saul Lebowitz

Present

The Mutual Manhattan

VARIETY CAVALCADE

In a live broadcast from the
Hotel Astor's Algonquin Room, Broadway
Between 44th and 45th Streets New York City

December 21, 1945

With

GINGER BROOKS, GENEVA LEE BROWNE,
ANN COLLIER, B.J. GIBSON and CONNIE MILLER,
RAY OWEN, NEAL TILDEN

and

JOHNNY CANTONE

Featuring

THE ZOOT DOUBLEMAN ORCHESTRA

Sylvia "Kiki" Summers, Keyboards


Phil Bentley, Bass
Necley "Flap" Kovacs, Drums

Trumpets
Picface Minelli
Moe "Lockjaw" Ambrose

Reeds
Toots Schoenfeld
Charlie "Kid Lips" Snyder
Bonnie Cavanaugh
BeBe Glassman

Musical Direction, Zoot Doubleman
Vocal Arrangements, Niles
Doubleman
Orchestrations, Sidney Neumark
Musical Staging and Stage
Management, Lou Cohn
Doorman for the Algonquin Room,
Mr. Arthur Bailey
Technician, Stanley Gallagher

Trombones
Fritz Canigliario
Bob "Bobo" Lewis
Scoops Millikin



Program

Music, Comedy and Dance

1. Kalamazoo Clifton Feddington
& Company
2. Daddy Connie Miller,
Stanley Harper
3. Love Is Here to Stay Johnny Cantone
4. Old Black Magic Ann Collier
5. Ain't She Sweet Biff Baker & The Boutiners
6. Diction Lessons Neal Tilden,
Clifton Feddington
7. Blue Moon Ray Owen
8. Rose of the Rio Grande Geneva Lee Browne
9. I'll Never Smile Again Johnny Cantone
10. Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy Connie Miller, Ginger Brooks,
Geneva Browne
11. Blues in the Night Ginger Brooks
12. Jingle Bells Biff Baker & The Boutiners
13. I Got It Bad Geneva Lee Browne
14. You Go to My Head Johnny Cantone
15. Five O'Clock Whistle Connie Miller
16. A Christmas Carol
by Charles Dickens Neal Tilden &
The Feddington Players
17. Have Yourself a Merry Christmas Ann Collier
18. Strike Up the Band Company
19. I'll Be Seeing You Company

Mutual Cavalcade of Manhattan is sponsored by Pepsi Cola, Sal Hepatica, Cashmere Bouquet, United States Rubber Company, Chiquita Bananas, Nash, Maxwell House Coffee, Forhans, Eskimo Pie, Servel Refrigerator




Cast Biographies

ZOOT DOUBLEMAN comes to WOV fresh from a USO tour of training bases in sunny California, a duty he reluctantly performs in lieu of military service. A founding member of the The Chuck Cabot Orchestra, Zoot owes his entire musical career to the genius of Mrs. Bearcats, Irv Fein's Fabulous Three and Murray O'Toole's Rover Boys. A serious musician at heart (he attended Brooklyn College), his new composition, *Zoot Suite*, is scheduled for performance in the near future at Carnegie Hall or in Pittsburgh.

B.J. GIBSON is the youngest of the singing Gibson brothers, who began their musical careers in New Orleans in 1932 (B.J. was fourteen) in an act their father named *Three Boys and a Harmonica*. With his brother "over there," B.J. packed Bobby's harmonica, Buddy's sweater, and his father's arrangements and went up to New Haven where he is a Senior English major at Yale's Branford College. He comes into New York every week though to do the show, keeping up the Gibson tradition, and is now singin' and dancin' and smilin' his way into the hearts of radio listeners everywhere. "Welcome aboard, B.J."

CONNIE MILLER comes all the way from Ogden, Utah, where she studied tap, ballet, and ballroom at Madame Stephen's Dance Academy. At age ten, she and her mother lived in Los Angeles, and while she was working as a script girl for Columbia Pictures, she kept the crews entertained with her imitations of Shirley Temple and Margaret O'Brien. After not being cast as Robert Young's daughter in *Joe Smith, American*, Connie and her mom came to New York, at which point Connie became an overnight success as the only singing waitress and stacker at Romeo's Spaghetti House, where our stage manager and choreographer, Lou Cohn, discovered her. Now the youngest member of the *Cavalcade*, Connie hopes one day to become a Rockette.



RAY OWEN has a long career of seemingly endless talents, from the critically acclaimed “third quizmaster” on KFJ’s *Questions, Please*, to the corny magician of WBAL’s *Vaudeville at Noon*. And who can forget WTAM’s *Live from Cleveland*? Ray also co-starred with Nigel Nooley in the RKO short *Shelby’s Millions*. But possible Ray’s greatest is his interpretation of “the ballad” and it is there that Ray becomes an indispensable member of the *Cavalcade*.


NEAL TILDEN’S career with some of the greats and many of the near-greats is pretty much history now. The grueling singing lessons, the one-night stands, until he exploded on the vocal horizon with Nestor Nugent’s *Tornadoes* at Tarrytown’s Café O’Ola. On to greater heights, and the fabled nine-week tour of ‘34 with the late, great Wes Westerley, who after losing Neal, lamented, It was like losing a horn. Neal has been with the *Cavalcade* since before it was even a twinkle in Clifton’s eye, and he still keeps a hand in club singing, a hand in radio singing, and a hand in stage acting, too (he was recently up for the role of the understudy to Gil Strutton, Jr. in the Broadway smash *Best Foot Forward*). But his first love is the *Cavalcade*, and he says he’s delighted to be handling vocal chores with an “O.K. outfit” like ours. “Thanks, Neal!”

CLIFTON A. FEDDINGTON, with his partner, Saul Lebowitz, has been producing The Mutual Manhattan Variety *Cavalcade* since his inception six years ago last week. It’s been a long climb for Clifton and his *Cavalcade*. He began work at WHK in Cleveland in the much-acclaimed children’s program, *Let’s Have Lunch with Mr. Cliff*. Then, on to Philadelphia where local radio audiences tuned in nightly to a community theatre group, *The Feddington Players*. Then, in 1935, with seed money from sixteen sponsors, Mr. Feddington landed a fifteen-minute musical variety show called *Stars in Heaven*, which featured recent singing discoveries, Ann Collier and Johnny Cantone, the Zoot Doubleman Quartet and

Neal Tilden. In 1936, Mutual expanded the show to a half-hour and renamed it *The Mutual Half-hour of Singing Stars* and the team added its first Gibson brother, Bobby. Just last January, through a deal with New York's WOV radio, the show became the hour-long *Cavalcade* we love today and tonight's show is the last in our first season. He is President of Clifton Records (the signature series), which will be into production as soon as the ASCAP strike is settled.

JOHNNY CANTONE first excited listeners in his native Brooklyn, New York where Johnny opened the '39 Pro-Am Duckpin Tourney with his version of "The Star Spangled Banner". Since then he has sung "The Anthem" at hundreds of sporting events (including his own unsuccessful attempt to unseat the defending welter-weight champ Eldon Dwight). Now "featured vocalist" with WOV's *Cavalcade*, Johnny has come a long way from those clubs in New Jersey where he fronted bands for five years before *Cavalcade*. "The Tone" hopes to begin his acting career with his upcoming engagement to read Odets with Harold on Don McNeill's *Breakfast Club* in March. He also hopes to be able to spend more time with his wife, Angel. Soon.

GINGER BROOKS moved everything to New York in the fall of 1940. It was only a year until she landed the coveted position of microphone monitor at WACL. But it wasn't long before she was cutting records for Artie Shaw. But her real forte was singing, so she left the technical position and became an overnight success as the only singing waitress and stacker at *Romeo's Spaghetti House*, where our stage manager and choreographer, Lou Cohn, discovered her. Ginger's favorite color is yellow.



GENEVA LEE BROWNE began her show business career at the Cotton Club in *The Hot Chocolates Review*, and later, with Earl "Fatha" Hines. In 1939, she moved to Kansas City where she formed her own Jazz quintet, the Kansas City Browne Boys, and, until this fall, entertained listeners there nightly at the Chesterfield Club. Since September, she has recorded for *Victor*, *Okey* and *Vocalion* Records and has just signed a contract to sing with Jimmy Lunceford's Orchestra. She has also been offered a short film with Louis Armstrong and Ethel Waters, to be shot at the Cotton Club where she began singing six years ago, which will feature a song she has written and performed as part of her set with her group nightly at the Onyx Club.

ANN COLLIER was singing with her sisters in Montclair, New Jersey, when she was only seven. When she went away to school, she worked on WJSV's *Dr. Pepper Parade* on Sunday nights and was offered tours with Claude Thornhill and the King Biscuit Entertainers. In '35, she returned to her native Montclair and sang with dance bands there where she was discovered by WOV's own Clifton Feddington and swept into New York and the limelight of his *Cavalcade* where she was "featured vocalist" for three years. She has been with the show for six years now and we hope she'll be there for six more. Ann lives with her four-year-old son, Matthew, on the Upper East Side of Manhattan.