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Transcript of a sound recording within MS 608, WLBZ Radio Station Records, Bangor, Maine, 1931-1973

Title: Jean Murray's Memo [Pilot Program?]

Date: October, 1949

Recording number: D.16.19; CD 4, track 1

Length of recording: 12:22

[transcript begins]

[organ music plays]

ANNOUNCER: Jean Murray's Memo, the latest in the women's world of homemaking, fashions, club work, and of course, events of local interest, with your hostess, Jean Murray.

MURRAY: Good morning, everyone. Well, undoubtedly, you want to know who I am and what I'm doing here. Well, I think I'm going to be able to arrange that. I'd like to tell you a little bit about me, and to tell you that I hope every day at this same time to visit with you for many, many reasons. First, I was born in Augusta, Maine, and have lived in Augusta, Maine most of my life. I went on to school at Cony High School in Augusta, probably you fans of football and baseball will recognize that name. Then I went on to Colby College for a short time where at one time I thought I would be a teacher. But the ways changed. I finally went in training at the Massachusetts General Hospital School of Nursing during the war. I became a nurse, did a little teaching of nursing and then one way or another was side tracked and found myself in radio at WRDO in Augusta. I have enjoyed radio for a good, long time now, and finally I did what a great many other young ladies have done in their time and I was married. I continued on with my radio, and my husband, in his pursuit of education, found himself up here in Bangor, Maine. So of course I am here and most happy to think that every morning I'm going to have the opportunity to talk with you, to meet many of you, and to present lots of new ideas to you. So, that takes care of me except perhaps to tell you a little bit about what I like. I like people very much. I like to keep house and cook. I enjoy radio work extremely well. Then as far as hobbies are concerned, reading, a little bit of theater, listening to music and once in a while getting in a good political discussion pretty well take care of me. I might also add that when I was a little girl I was called naturally "Nosy." Well now it's sort of legitimate curiosity because I can ask all kinds of questions and have a real reason for it.

But that's just about everything you should know, I think, so now that we know one another, here's what we plan to do every day at this time. First, I would like to get acquainted with you. I would like to know what is going on at your clubs. That is something that is very interesting, I think. Most of you are particularly aware of the needs of the community when you're in your clubs. Most of your clubs have projects and ideas that you try to put across to the community, you have plans that will better your own club, your own neighborhood. Then of course everyone is interested in helping to get these ideas

across. You'd like to know what other people's clubs are doing. They like to know what your club is doing. If you have a very interesting speaker or someone of that sort, it's extremely worthwhile to be able to put their ideas across to the public. I'm sure many times you've said, "Oh, it's just a shame, we had so-and-so as a speaker last night. There were only thirty of us at the meeting and what she had to say should be said to everyone in the area." Well, if you find yourself in a situation like that, just give me a ring here at WLBZ and I will be more than happy to have you come and talk with us, tell us about that particular club meeting, or to pass the word along myself. So that gives you an idea of what we want to do so far as different women's groups and women's clubs are concerned.

Then, there are lots of other things we'd like to know. I think probably you've heard the saying that a wife is a household manager, an economist, a nurse, a dietician, a teacher, a glamour girl, an interested citizen, a club woman and well, just woman. Well, being "just woman" does involve most all of those things and I think we'll be able to invade all of those different fields from time to time and see what we can find. There's no question but we'll be able to take up a little bit of cooking one day, maybe some menu planning, then a few household hints, something to make the housework go a little faster or to make it seem a little nicer, anyway. And perhaps another day we'll delve into the world of fashion where we will find out just what is being worn on 5th Avenue and then what is being worn right on Main Street in your own hometown. And that's pretty much what we're going to do.

So now that we all have our plan figured out and you know what to expect every morning when I drop in, why don't we get started on a real, good talk? Now, since I have been keeping house, I know something that I imagine many of you have known for a good many years. Come Monday morning, there are seven days of the week stretched out ahead of you and every one of those days is going to require a breakfast, a lunch, and a dinner, and it gets sort of hard to decide what to have for those meals every single day. It gets monotonous if you have the same thing day in and day out, and yet it's monotonous trying to think of something different, too. So, on every Monday morning, why don't we plan to do this? I will suggest to you menus for the entire week. I'm going to skip breakfast, it may not be fair, maybe it's cheating a little bit, but you can plan your breakfasts I am sure, and then you take some of these ideas of lunches and dinners and you'll fit them, tailor them to suit your own family. Now here we go, and since it's Monday and almost time for lunch, how about something quick and easy this noon? Grilled cheese sandwiches, some carrot sticks, and some applesauce. Now, nothing could be easier or more delicious, and since it's a gray day and a little bit cold, the warmth in those grilled cheese sandwiches is going to be very good. For dinner this evening, what about hamburger loaf? It's easy to prepare. While you have the loaf baking in the oven, stick in a few potatoes and you'll have nice, fresh, piping hot baked potatoes at that same meal. Stewed tomatoes lend a nice touch with hamburger, and for dessert, maybe a lemon merengue pie to show the family that you're starting off the week in just the right style.

Tomorrow, of course is Tuesday and for lunch you might maybe have some vegetable soup with toast if you had some bread left over from the weekend, a little bit hard not stale, toast it up, cut it into little croutons, pop it into the vegetable soup and you'll have a treat. Molasses cookies fit in very nicely for lunch. Then for dinner Tuesday evening, grilled cutlet, mashed potatoes, green beans and baked apples

would fill the bill. On Wednesday, lunch might be a little bit different, scrambled eggs with bacon and maybe some Toll House cookies that you popped in the oven in the morning while you were working around the house. For dinner on Wednesday evening, how does macaroni and cheese sound to you? And to make it a little bit different, cook it with little cut up bits of hot dogs on the top. And a mixed vegetable dish would be ideal. As a matter of fact, that's a grand way to make use of vegetables you've had left over from several other meals and at the same time not make the family feel they're having leftovers. Fruit Jello with a little whipped cream could take care of dessert very nicely, and then you'd be all the way up to Thursday. Maybe for lunch some date-nut bread with cream cheese sandwiches and apples. If you have something big planned for Thursday afternoon and you don't want to spend a lot of extra time baking, the apples would fit in very nicely. Another meal that would sort of cook itself is an old fashioned beef stew that you could have for dinner on that Thursday evening, and maybe pop a few dumplings in just before you put it on the table. That would give it the extra touch. Pineapple delight is always a delightful dessert. On Friday noon, tuna fish salad with potato chips would be ideal. You might have a can of beets around the house somewhere that would just add a little color to that meal, and sugar cookies would keep everyone in the family perfectly happy at lunchtime. For dinner that evening, maybe baked fish fillets with boiled potatoes and mashed turnips, something that's definitely in at this time of year and that we haven't talked of before for this week. And ginger bread is always a good Friday night dessert. Come Saturday, at noontime I think you'd better just take the day off and let the rest of the family take care of the lunch. Let them have a pick up lunch. It won't hurt them one little bit, and they'll be plenty of leftovers, I'm sure. For dinner Saturday night I wouldn't dare start off in New England any way but suggesting baked beans, absolutely, with some cabbage salad, hot rolls and the family's favorite dessert just to show them that you do care after the long, cold football afternoons and so forth. Come Sunday, a roast is always very nice. Maybe roast beef which you tied to bake on Saturday and just popped in the oven on Sunday for the finishing touches on Sunday. Potatoes that were baked in the oven at the same time, green peas, and probably some orange pudding, the kind of orange pudding that you might not have had since you were a little girl, you know, with the custard base, whole, fresh sections of oranges in the top and then the whole business topped off with a frothy merengue. You can't beat it, and there you have your week's menu suggestions.

And now I think there's another item or another division of interest in the women that you would like to discuss and that is something that we can talk about very easily. You undoubtedly have youngsters who are going to school. Daughters who like to look just as nice as they can every day in the week. And if that's the case, it would be ideal, of course, to set out and buy them a whole new wardrobe, but if you can't quite figure that out, how about taking some of last year's dresses, the dresses that you thought were too hopeless even to start school this year and see what you can do to sort of give them a new lease on life? You know psychologists have pointed out time and time again that the direct relation between the young girl's clothes and her self-assurance is something that everyone should be aware of. So if your young lady is forced to wear a few outfits many, many times, she's apt to become a little bit unhappy so, Mother, get out some of those short dresses and see what you can do. Remember when the new look hit us full force, what did you do? Well, of course you lengthened them one way or another and they look very nice, so try that. Get some new material. Make a waist inset for one dress, a little ruffle around the skirt of another. And of course, to keep the home made look out of some of

these things, add a touch of the same added material to the collar, to the cuffs, with a little bow, or maybe a little pocket trim. Of course, pockets are high style in Fall '49, and if you would put a great, big gypsy pocket on the belt of a dress and a wide band of the matching fabric at the hem of the dress, you would find you had something your very style conscious youngster would wear without a second thought. You'll be pretty pleased with yourself, I think, if you do get right down to business and start doing something about some of these ideas. Just remember a little touch of initiative, a little touch of something different, and out of what was nothing you can really have something.

Well, that gives us an idea of what we can do today, and now tomorrow, there are a couple of things I would like to talk to you about. Item number one would be Halloween parties. I think they're very fascinating and of course this is just the season for them. And item number two, something about books that are on the best seller list this week. And I guess that just about does it for us for this morning. So, until tomorrow at this same time, if you have a favorite recipe or household hint, if your club has a project that you would like to tell us about, won't you share it by writing to me? This is your hostess, Jean Murray.

[organ music plays]

ANNOUNCER: We invite you to listen at the same time tomorrow for Jean Murray's Memo, the latest in the women's world of homemaking, fashions, club work, and events of local interest.

[transcript ends]

For more information about this transcript, audio recording, or other materials in Special Collections at the University of Maine, contact:

Fogler Special Collections
5729 Raymond H. Fogler Library
Orono, ME 04469-5729
207.581.1686
um.library.spc@maine.edu