

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

WLBZ Radio Station Records

Manuscripts

3-20-1955

Bangor High School Basketball Return From New England Tournament

WLBZ Radio

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/wlbz_station_records



Part of the [History Commons](#), and the [Radio Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

WLBZ Radio, (March 20 1955) "Bangor High School Basketball Return From New England Tournament". *WLBZ Radio Station Records*. MS 608. Tape 11. Special Collections, Raymond H. Fogler Library, University of Maine.

https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/wlbz_station_records/158

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in WLBZ Radio Station Records by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

University of Maine Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department

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

Title: Bangor Basketball Team Return From Tournament

Date: Not dated. March 20?, 1955

Recording number: Tape 11

Length of recording: 10:40

[Transcript begins]

[Cheerleaders cheering.]

MINCHER: Well, that's part of the racket from the crowd here, estimated that, I don't know how many hundred, perhaps ranging up into the thousands, waiting for the Rams to get back. The train is a little bit late. It was supposed to arrive here at 3:40 and at the time I'm speaking, it's 10 minutes of 4:00. We have here a City Manager, Joseph [?] Jr. of Bangor, who I think is in on all of the celebrations planned for this afternoon. Can you tell me Joe, what's on your mind right now?

CITY MANAGER: Well, this was sort of a spur-of-the-moment celebration that started late last night, early this morning, but everyone is cooperated beautifully and it looks as though we have a wonderful turnout to bring these boys home to. We've got a fire truck down here, a detail of policeman. We're going to line up the Bangor band as soon as they get off the train. Then there will be a parade down to the high school at which time they keys the city will be presented. I don't know if you can hear me or not, Bill, above all this racket. The keys of the city will be presented to Coach Berry and it looks like the train is coming in now, isn't it, down there?

MINCHER: Yes, it's just rounding High Head down there, so the police officers are now pushing the crowd back and in just a few minutes here the train will pull into Bangor Union station. We are going to wander around through the crowd here and ask a few people what they think of the Rams' performance. Chief Toole, we are making a tape here on all the doings this afternoon. What do you think of the Rams?

POLICE CHIEF: Oh, I think they was wonderful, I think with just a little bit of luck they could have had that championship. They're the best team in New England.

MINCHER: I think everybody here, no doubt, thinks the same thing, they're the championship team even if ... without that little bit of luck as you said.

POLICE CHIEF: They're the best team in New England, they showed it.

MINCHER: Okay, that was a word from Bangor Police Chief John B. Toole. Let's see if we can get a word from some of the audience, members of the audience here. Not me, she says, not me. Can I find a speaker? What do you think of the Rams?

YOUNG VOICE: Wonderful!

MINCHER: Okay, wonderful seems to be the word here today. Here's a young man that might speak a word for us... What do you think of the Rams?

YOUNG MAN: They're great.

[Loud cheering]

MINCHER: You think they're great. That sums it up pretty well too. The train is now moving down through the freight yards. We just saw it disappear behind a row of freight trains down there, and before very long, it should be moving into view. There was of chorus behind me of the Bangor High School song and perhaps in just a minute or two, there'll be something else of interest musically speaking. I think most of these fans are going to or have shouted themselves hoarse by the time you are hearing this this evening, but I'm sure that they would all agree there could be no better reason for getting hoarse. It's a cool, windy day down here, although the sun is out. Let's see if we can pick up a few highlights from the crowd here. I noticed that the John Bapst Crusaders cheerleaders are down here, no doubt representing many of the students of the school. Everybody is... let's listen to Bangor song.

[Music]

MINCHER: Well, everybody is beginning to wonder now just what has happened to this train. It did round the corner of High Head and is probably moving slowly through the freight yard down there. We can see the freight yard from our point here in front of Bangor Union Station but we can't see any movement of... yes, you heard the yell. The big yellow and green diesel engine of this Maine Central Train has come in and a little bit of havoc had just broken loose here, as you can see. There is Captain Carl [Lawley?] of the Bangor Police Department. They've got several officers here are helping to keep the crowd back from the train. The train's moving now across the bridge and just before coming into the yard. Now it's stopped. It stopped there momentarily. Apparently the engineer wants to be sure that none of this tremendous crowd moves out onto the track where someone could get hurt. The train is scheduled to come in, we understand, on the track that's nearest to the station. Now it started to move again. They want to be sure that the officers here have all the members of the crowd pushed back so that no one can get hurt. The train has started to move again. It's moving very, very slowly. There's one thing about talking to you at an affair such as this, if I should happen to run out of words at any specific time, that doesn't seem to make very much difference because there certainly is plenty of background noise to fill in here. Dead air is no problem at all at a time like this. Now, this big diesel engine, Number 708 of the Maine Central Railroad, is pulling off onto this sidetrack, one of the tracks in the yard at Bangor Station, moving by now.

[Tremendous cheer and train bell clanging]

MINCHER: The crowd is very well behaved and certainly is full of enthusiasm. Nobody moved forward by so much as a foot. I think the people of Bangor, excited though they are at this time, can be congratulated for the orderly way in which they're conducting themselves here. I'd say that there, nobody is in any danger whatsoever. The train is still rolling by, these stainless steel coaches. And

probably our team. I haven't seen any of them so far. Probably our team is in one of the coaches up ahead. Now the final car of the train has swung by and there the team is in the last car. And the crowd certainly realized it as you can tell from that shout going up.

[Applause]

Rather than try to talk to any members of the team as they go by, I'm going to see if I can set my sights on Red Barry and perhaps have a word with him when he gets off the train. Members of the band are coming out now, bringing their instruments. Some of them wearing uniform caps and so on. They're all looking very happy at this at this turnout here. There are some of the girls who are also members of Bangor High's band but I don't see any of the members of the team. Perhaps they're getting out of the head end of the car. There's considerable excitement going on down there. Now that the train has stopped, the crowd is definitely pushing in. We're going to move down toward the front end of the train here and see if we can possibly get a word with Coach Barry as he comes out. I'm gonna see if I can make a... let's listen to the song.

[Singing]

Most of this music that you're hearing right now is being provided by the cheerleaders of John Bapst High School and I would say that that certainly is a healthy indication of how the entire state must feel about this Bangor team which is certainly done a splendid job representing the state of Maine in the tournament at Boston. Now the John Bapst girls have started in leading another Bangor cheer. Of course, they had to take over because of the fact that the Bangor cheerleaders were aboard the train. Now we have members of the band still getting off the train. We're gonna stop the recorder for just a minute here see if we can conserve tape again.

[Cheering]

MINCHER: Here's Fred Barry now. Eddie Owen was down to the station from WLBZ to see you folks off the other day, and now this is Bill Mincher come down to welcome you home, Red.

BARRY: Well thanks very much, Bill!

MINCHER: What do you think of the audience?

[Talking over each other and cheering in the background, brief conversation not audible]

BARRY: Wonderful.

MINCHER: Thanks a lot. A little bit later on. He's anxious to get out of this crowd, here, and I can't say that I blame him. I've been counting them up, a few minutes ago, and I would estimate that this probably around 3,000 people in sight here now probably a great many more outside of our line of sight. The whole downtown section of Bangor is blocked by traffic. It's almost impossible to get through it will as you may well know if you've tried to come through this afternoon. There's a line of convertibles

waiting out there for the parade up to Bangor High School where Red Barry will be presented with a key to the city.

[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