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WLBZ Radio, (January 01 1960) "Operation Progress: History of WLBZ and the Move from Main Street to Broadway". *WLBZ Radio Station Records*. MS 608. Tape A 1960 04 24. Special Collections, Raymond H. Fogler Library, University of Maine.

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

Title: Operation Progress: the History of WLBZ and the Move from Main Street to Broadway

Date: 1960

Recording number: Tape A 1960 04 24

Length of recording: 1:00:58

[transcript begins]

NARRATOR 1: This is WLBZ in Bangor, Maine, and this is Operation Progress the history of a radio station as we prepare to move from Main Street to Broadway. In retrospect, the growth of WLBZ, the main station for Maine people, as we prepare to transfer controls from our studios on Main Street, our home for 30 years, to our new, completely modern radio building on Broadway.

NARRATOR 2: Today we'll bring you recorded highlights of the passing years. Voices, events, news, that help to trace our development from the past to the present and point to the future. The first program ever produced and broadcast by WLBZ featured a musical group, who a few years ago, got together and recorded some special material for us, some of the music that was heard on that very first program.

[Music. Group singing four part harmony accompanied by piano]

NARRATOR 2: That portion of the original program broadcast over WLBZ was recreated for us by Ray J. Smart of Waterville, Theo Hazeltine, Dexter, William Cilly, Dover Foxcroft, and at the piano, Phil Clark Dover Foxtrot.

NARRATOR 1: [Jazz music] The now-familiar call letters of WLBZ were first heard on December 30th, 1926, although actually it all began in 1921 when Thompson L Guernsey began operating an amateur station with the call letters W1EE in Dover Foxcroft. In 1927, WLBZ moved to Bangor with studios at 98 Main Street and transmitter on Broadway, the present site of our new studios, the most modern and complete radio facilities in Maine. [Music]

NARRATOR 2: Through the years, WLBZ has brought you some of the outstanding entertainers of our time. What radio fan will forget these voices?

RECORDING of FRED ALLEN SHOW: And now our guests, ladies and gentlemen, is a brilliant... Oh, hello Portland.

PORTLAND: Hello and goodbye.

ALLEN: Hello and goodbye. Well, that's the kind of a visit I like. With most people what happens between hello and goodbye is a waste of time.

PORTLAND: Oh, I'm not going.

ALLEN: Well then, why hello and goodbye?

PORTLAND: Hello for me, and goodbye for Mama.

ALLEN: Goodbye for?

PORTLAND: Yes, Mama read in the paper that you're going out to Hollywood.

ALLEN: Yes, we're leaving tomorrow. We're going to do our next three programs in California.

PORTLAND: Mama says you're going to make a picture with Jack Benny.

ALLEN: Well, we're going to start a picture. I may finish Benny before I finish the picture. It's too bad, though, that you can't come to California, Portland.

PORTLAND: Well, I almost went. Mama tried to buy a ticket on the installment plan.

ALLEN: Oh, I read about that new travel plan. The railroad looks you up and if your credit's good you can ride around the country and pay for your ticket later in installments.

PORTLAND: Yes, Mama's crazy about installments. She even pays her installments in installments.

ALLEN: Well, this installment travel plan must have appealed to your mother.

PORTLAND: Oh, I'll say. Mama didn't know whether to get a new ice box or visit her sister in California. The payments were the same.

ALLEN: Oh, I see. And she decided on the trip.

PORTLAND: Yes. The railroad looked Mama up.

ALLEN: And?

PORTLAND: Mama's credit is only good to Omaha.

ALLEN: So she can't visit her sister in California?

PORTLAND: No, but Mama's sister's credit is good from California to Salt Lake.

ALLEN: Well, how are they going to get together?

PORTLAND: Mama's going to Omaha. Her sister's going to Salt Lake

ALLEN: Yeah?

PORTLAND: Then they'll both start hitchhiking, and meet in Denver.

ALLEN: Oh, that complicates things nicely, and stirs up a little business for the Greyhound bus people.

[Music]

NARRATOR: And we recall another famous name in show business, being introduced to the nation for the first time by the late Wallace Beery. [Music]

RECORDING of BEERY: Now for the surprise of the evening. This is really so dog gone good that I can hardly believe it myself. This is the opportunity spot of the show, one portion of the show that we donate each week to someone which we feel has exceptional ability and we want to help along. We have a girl here whom I think is going to be the sensation of pictures. She's only 12 years old and I take great pleasure in presenting to you Judy Garland. Wait until you hear her, only 12 years old. [Applause] There you are. Judy, if you're scared, you hang right on to me, Honey. I'm right with you. [Laughter] Ah come, we'll talk a minute now. Where did you learn to sing?

GARLAND: My mother taught me.

BEERY: Your Ma, huh? Never had any regular music lessons at all, huh?

GARLAND: Well, I did take some piano lesson.

BEERY: Well, can you play pretty good?

GARLAND: I don't know. Mom says I play pretty well.

BEERY: Well, of course, Mom would. All right, Judy, now tell me this. Now what do you want to do when you grow up to be a great big girl, huh?

GARLAND: I want to be a singer, Mr. Beery and I'd like to act, too.

BEERY: Well you'll do it, Judy, don't worry. Now I'll tell you, you just standing here and sing that piece you sang to me the other day and show these folks what a singer you are. Now go right to it, and if if you need me, I'll be standing right there. Step right on it, go ahead Judy.

[Music] GARLAND singing lyrics: Broadway, street of a million lives. Broadway, street of a million sighs. Broadway, street of a million knives. Nights of pain and tears and sorrows, nights that promise gay tomorrows, but up or down or sad or gay, there's something in this old Broadway that makes you tingle in a , it makes you get right up and shout ... Broadway Rhythm... [Music]

NARRATOR: Yes, Judy Garland, when she was introduced for the first time to the American radio audience by the late Wallace Beery. [Music]

ANNOUNCER: This is Operation Progress on WLBZ, taking you back through the 33 years that WLBZ has been serving the people of Maine. This program made possible by the many advertisers on the main station for Maine people marks our a big move from our present studios on Main Street, where we've been for 30 years, to our new, completely modern facilities on outer Broadway. Many prominent persons have sent congratulatory messages to WLDZ on the occasion of this move. For example...

AUDIO of REED: This is Governor John H. Reed. I would like to take this moment to congratulate radio station WLBZ on the opening of its new studios and offices on outer Broadway in Bangor. This, to me, is new evidence of radio's steady progress over the years, and a tribute to WLBZ, a station that has always maintained the high standards required in the broadcasting industry. For the past 30 years, WLBZ has been serving the Bangor area with dignity, culture, and practical service. This move, after such a long stand at their studios on Main Street, has the wholehearted support, I am sure, of their large listening audience. Because they realize that that will mean a continuation of the best in radio programming enhanced by the use of the most modern electronic equipment. WLBZ has always been conscious of its duty to community and state in its programming. It, I am sure, will continue to be for another 30 years. Again, I congratulate WLBZ for all it has done for the betterment of its listening area, its progressive movement to new quarters, and its future worth to all who live within its reach. May its voice never cease to inform and entertain.

[Music]

NARRATOR: This is Operation Progress on WLBZ, marking a milestone in our history, the move to our completely modern studios and offices on outer Broadway after 30 years on Main Street. The WLBZ Radio Center will enable us to bring you even better radio than in the past, the sound of the 60s. But what about the sound of the 50s, the 40s, and the 30s on WLBZ? Let's keep rolling with Operation Progress and see. For instance, remember the A & P Gypsies, with a young singer named Frank Parker?

[Music]

[Lyrics: Just around the corner, there's a rainbow in the sky, So let's have another cup of coffee, and let's have another piece of pie. Now trouble's just a bubble, and the clouds will still roll by, let a smile be our umbrella, for it's just an April shower, even John D. Rockefeller is looking for the silver lining. Mr. Franklin Roosevelt says that now's the time to buy, so let's have another cup of coffee, and let's have another piece of pie]

NARRATOR: Yes, the A & P Gypsies, or as a harried NBC announcer once, said the A and G Pipsies. Here's another well-known voice from quite a few years back and incidentally one of the most famous University of Maine alumnus.

VOICE of RUDY VALLEE SINGING, The most beautiful girl in the world... [Music]

NARRATOR: Rudy Vallee, way back in 1935. Now here's another famous voice and one that's heard daily on WLBZ.

HUNTLEY: This is Chet Huntley, NBC News, New York. I should like to add my congratulations to all those received by WLBZ upon the completion of its new facilities for Operation Progress. Through 33 years of good times and bad, war and peace and Cold War, WLBZ has served the Bangor community. The construction and dedication of these new facilities may be taken as a firm resolution on the part of this fine station that its service to this part of the state of Maine has really only begun. We at NBC News look forward to reaching new people through the link of WLBZ. [Music]

ANNOUNCER: Now you know us is Radio 62. Our frequency spot on the dial was at one time 980 kilocycle and our power was 250 watts. The dial settings changed to 1440 kilocycles and in 1928, WLBZ moved to this familiar 620 spot on the dial. [Music] Now here are some more voices from the past as WLBZ and network radio broadcasting grew and prospered.

[Voice singing, I sailed away to Treasure Island...] [Music]

NARRATOR: Returning briefly to our chronological history, WLBZ increased its power to 500 watts and in 1930, we became associated with the Columbia Broadcasting System and the Yankee Network. That's the way it was through the 30s until 1938, when we affiliated with NBC, our national network now. Our present power of five thousand watts was sanctioned by the FCC on September 26, 1943, and that marked another important milestone in the growth of WLBZ, eastern Maine's first full-time commercial radio station. [Music]

ANNOUNCER: This is Operation Progress, a special program in observance of the 33 years during which WLBZ has been providing entertainment and information to Maine listeners. And here again, we recall some radio highlights of the past.

NARRATOR: Baron Munchausen.

HOST: Well, well, Baron, I'm delighted to see you.

MUNCHAUSEN: Well, [Charlie?] of all the peoples in the whole world.

HOST: I haven't seen you in a long time. Where you been?

MUNCHAUSEN: I just come back from [inaudible]

HOST: Oh, yeah?

MUNCHAUSEN: I've just come back.

HOST: How'd you get over here?

MUNCHAUSEN: I came over on a ship.

HOST: How was the food aboard the ship, Baron?

MUNCHAUSEN: The food was just so-so.

HOST: Oh, so-so, huh?

MUNCHAUSEN: You know something, Charlie? With every meal I had to eat soup.

HOST: With every meal you had to eat soup?

MUNCHAUSEN: I had to eat soup.

HOST: Was it compulsory?

MUNCHAUSEN: You see, I was... hello?

HOST: I say, was it compulsory?

MUNCHAUSEN: No. Tomato. Tomato soup. [Laughter] They didn't have compulsory.

HOST: Oh, say, by the way Baron, just a moment. Did you did you know that Jimmy Durante has been looking all over the state for you with a gun?

MUNCHAUSEN: You mean he's looking for me with a revolver?

HOST: With a revolver, yes.

MUNCHAUSEN: Why? He's looking for me, why?

HOST: Well, he said you called him a dirty name.

MUNCHAUSEN: I called him a dirty name?

HOST: He said that you swore at him.

MUNCHAUSEN: Oh, what a liar.

HOST: Now, don't get excited. You'll get high blood pressure.

MUNCHAUSEN: No, no, I'm anemic. [Laughter]. Listen, Charlie, I give you my solemn word I never called him a dirty name. And I never swore at him.

HOST: Then how did it happen?

MUNCHAUSEN: Here's how that comes out, just like it was. What day is this today?

HOST: Today?

MUNCHAUSEN: Yeah.

HOST: Sunday.

MUNCHAUSEN: Sunday, that was four days back. That was Wetnessday.

HOST: What day did you say? You mean Wednesday?

MUNCHAUSEN: Yeah, in the center of the week.

HOST: Wednesday, named after the god Woden.

MUNCHAUSEN: No, Wednesday is named after Tuesday. You see, Wednesday, I was driving in my car.

HOST: Wait a minute. Tell me, what time of the day was this?

MUNCHAUSEN: Oh, this was maybe 9 o'clock.

HOST: Nine o'clock? Nine o'clock a.m. or p.m.?

MUNCHAUSEN: [Laughs] So, I'm going out...

HOST: Why don't you answer my question? Was it 9 o'clock a.m. or p.m.?

MUNCHAUSEN: No, that's not nice.

HOST: What's nice nice?

MUNCHAUSEN: I don't like that.

HOST: What are you talking about?

MUNCHAUSEN: I know what that is. Now don't say that.

HOST: You know what it is?

MUNCHAUSEN: It's about the farmer's daughter. I don't like it.

HOST: Just a minute, now will you calm yourself? Look, I'll make this little bit more clear to you. Was it nine o'clock before noon, or afternoon? Will you please tell me the time of the day you are driving in the country?

MUNCHAUSEN: Nine o'clock.

HOST: a.m. or p.m.?

MUNCHAUSEN: No, AZ that was.

HOST: What do you mean, AZ?

MUNCHAUSEN: After Zupper. [Laughter, then Music]

NARRATOR: Now we recall more of your favorites from the wonderful past on WLBZ [Music]

AUDIO CLIP: This is the Kraft Music Hall, starring Al Jolson with Lou [Bring?] his orchestra chorus and our guests Arnold Stang as Gerard and the world-famous violinist Yehudi Menuhin.

[Voice singing, So keep on looking for a bluebird, and listening for its call. Then a medley of various early radio audio clips. Little Jack Little. W. C. Fields. Groucho Marx. Others not identified.]

NARRATOR: [Music] This is Operation Progress on WLBZ, a milestone in the neverending progress of Radio 62 to bring you better listening every day of the year. Today marks the big move when we shift operations from our studios on Main Street, after 30 years, to our completely new facility on outer

Broadway. Many prominent people both in Maine and in the national spotlight have sent congratulations to WLBZ on the occasion of this move. Maine's senior Senator.

MARGARET CHASE SMITH: As the senior Senator from Maine and one who has served in Congress for twenty years, I know the great value of radio station WLBZ to the people of Maine. For 30 years, this great station has rendered outstanding public service as well as providing news, education information, and entertainment to the good people of a large part of Maine. I salute and commend WLBZ, and all the fine men and women connected with it, on its thirty years of outstanding service.

ANNOUNCER: [Music] This is Operation Progress on Radio 62. [Music]

NARRATOR: From our own studios, a great variety of talent paraded before our microphones over the years. The voice of Kay DeWitt.

[DeWitt sings lines from the song *Rain*]

NARRATOR: This, of course, is Chasing Rainbows, the familiar theme of Console and Keyboard Melodies with Norm Lambert at the piano. [Music]

NARRATOR 2: Many pleasant hours have been spent under apple trees, but nevertheless, here are the Musical Milkmen to request, don't sit under the apple tree. [Music]

NARRATOR: The Musical Milkmen, Gene Hammonds and Hugh Davis.

AUDIO CLIP: Ladies and gentlemen, Nissen's Blue-Ribbon Minstrels. [Music] It's the anniversary broadcast of the Blue-Ribbon Minstrels, brought to you by the Nissen Baking Company, bakers of blue-ribbon bread the freshest thing in town. Yes, it was just a year ago that the Blue-Ribbon Minstrels went on the air for the first time. And tonight we're going to review some of the minstrel highlights all these 52 weeks of broadcasting. And now, the opening chorus. [Music] [A few lines from a comic routine from the show, available in full in another transcript and recording in the collection.]

NARRATOR: One of the most popular local radio shows ever put on in Maine, Nissen's Blue-Ribbon Minstrels. And now, one of the most versatile entertainers to ever bring laughter to thousands of Maine listeners and he took this role.

HEZZIE: Yep, I'm going right now. [Music, singing Bye, bye blues.] Well, there. There. That ought to have everybody in a good frame of mind.

NARRATOR: Now, here's the way Uncle Hezzie always used to say goodbye.

HEZZIE: Everything's okay down at the barn. Now get the butter on a melting and we'll get some popcorn and get a good night's sleep. Got to go. Bye-bye [?]

NARRATOR: And one day the stage-door finally did closed on Uncle Hezzie Q. Snow but whether you knew him as Uncle Hezzie, Gill Snow, or Paul Gill, you'll remember that he was one of Maine's best loved radio personalities. [Music]

ANNOUNCER: This is Operation Progress on WLBZ marking the last broadcast from our home of 30 years here on Main Street and the first broadcast from our new Radio Center on outer Broadway. And we've heard from many well-known people on the occasion of the big move. Among them, people prominent in the broadcasting field in Maine. Here's the president of the Maine Association of Broadcasters.

STEPHENS: this is L.B. Stephens, President of the Maine Association of Broadcasters. It is a great pleasure for me to be able to participate in this historic moment in the annals of Maine broadcasting. WLBZ, an integral part of the Maine Broadcasting System, has been a landmark on Main Street in Bangor for over 30 years. During that time, WLBZ has been flexible in its operation and it's given the people of eastern Maine modern radio listening year after year. Ed Guernsey, Manager of WLBZ, has been my friend for many years and I assure you he has been and will continue to be an outstanding citizen and ever ready to bring to the people of eastern Maine the best radio programming it's possible to attain. As WLBZ enters a new era of broadcasting from their new studios on outer Broadway, may I take this opportunity to extend congratulations on behalf of the entire broadcasting industry of Maine to WLBZ and to add to this my personal congratulations and best wishes for many more successful years of broadcasting. [Music]

NARRATOR: Wherever you go, there's radio and radio goes just about everywhere. Back in 1949, for example.

AUDIO CLIP: Hello, I see you're standing here, just eating popcorn, making yourself at home at the Bangor Sportsman Show. Norm is playing up there, broadcasting over WLBZ, and thought maybe you'd like to have Norm play some request number, some special number you'd like to hear. What's your name, sir? No name? Well, how about a number? Request number, you got a favorite tune you'd like to hear? Well that's very unusual. Maybe because your mouth is full of popcorn you can't say anything. How about you, sir?

ATTENDEE: I'm sorry.

WLBZ: No picking no particular number that you'd like to have? Well here's a young lady here that looks like she wants a number. What do you want to hear Norm play?

YOUNG LADY: Cruising Down the River.

WLBZ: Cruising Down the River. What's your name?

YOUNG LADY: [Jean ?]

WLBZ: And how old are you?

YOUNG LADY: Nine years old.

WLBZ: And where are you from?

YOUNG LADY: Bangor.

WLBZ: Well, are you enjoying the show here?

YOUNG LADY: Yes.

WLBZ: Good deal. Now you listen now, you'll hear Cruising Down the River. Here we go. [Music]

NARRATOR: And speaking of cruising down the river, back in '49 on the opening of the salmon fishing season, Irv Hunter found himself out on the Penobscot River in the famous Bangor salmon pool.

HUNTER: This is Irving Hunter, using the roving microphone of WLBZ in Bangor, Maine, to broadcast from a fishing boat in Bangor's famous salmon pool. Today marks the opening of the season at this noted salmon pool in the Penobscot River. And according to tradition, the first salmon caught here each year is sent to the President of the United States by the Penobscot Salmon Club. The fisherman who was out in this boat to try his luck and skill on opening day is Horace Bond, veteran fisherman and president of the Penobscot Salmon Club. We've enjoyed an early morning breakfast at the Salmon Club, state of Maine breakfast. Baked beans, coffee, doughnuts, and all the fixings. Tell me, Horace, what do you think of the fishing conditions here at the Bangor Salmon Pool today?

BOND: Well, Irving, they're not ideal. The water is rather muddy and there's quite a lot of sediment and grass running. Conditions are not what you'd call ideal but just fair.

HUNTER: Have you seen any salmon jumping at the falls at the head of the pool here, Horace?

BOND: No we haven't, Irving. At this time of year, we very seldom see fish showing. A little later on, when the water warms up, usually we have a showing of salmon. It's rather cold now.

HUNTER: What type of fly are you using today?

BOND: We're using a single five [aught?] Red Ranger.

HUNTER: According to the record, Horace, you have more than one Presidential salmon to your credit. About when was it that you caught those first salmon of the season?

BOND: Well, my first salmon, Presidential fish, was in 1939 and weighed thirteen half pounds. The next one, I believe was in 1942 and weighed eight and a half pounds.

HUNTER: Which President was it who got those salmon, Horace?

BOND: That was President Roosevelt, Irving.

HUNTER: He got the both of them?

BOND: That's right.

HUNTER: Well many thanks, Horace Bond, for taking time out from your fishing at the Bangor Salmon Pool in Bangor, Maine, to take part in this broadcast. And here's wishing you the best of luck for the 1949 season.

BOND: Okay, Irving. Thanks a lot, and good luck. [Music]

NARRATOR: Always a leader in sports coverage, pioneering in broadcasting tournament basketball in this part of the state, WLBZ initiated Operation Tandem to report on three championship basketball games being played simultaneously in Orono, and at Waterville.

AUDIO from GAME: George Wentworth signals timeout for [Sterns?] so it is timeout here at the University of Maine in the second quarter with Stearns leading 34 to Oldtown 30 and let's see what's happening in Waterville, and for the Milo Auto Company, here is Eddie Owen in Waterville.

OWEN: Six minutes and 20 seconds left of this ballgame. Beal still leading. The score, Beal 56 and Rangeley now has 43 points. [Harvey Crowley?] the scrappy little guard for the Beal team I just had a head-on collision with one the Rangeley boys. Got a bit of a headache out of it, so his coach, Tom Longfellow says, Harvey, you better sit on the bench a while and take a rest. He's sitting over there taking it easy. That's the story right now with six minutes and 18 seconds left to go. Beal 58 and Rangely 43, as one of the Beals player just scored another basket. And this is Eddie Owen, speaking for the Milo Auto Company and returning you to Orono.

FIRST ANNOUNCER: Okay, Eddie, and immediately after this ball game, or this half, rather, and we have about 50 seconds to go, we'll switch right back over there to Waterville and perhaps pick up the finish of that Class S championship game between Beals and Rangeley. But here now in Orono, with seconds to go, once again, with about 50 seconds to go in the in the second quarter, Steans leading 34 to 30. It's a jump ball in Oldtown's front court. The tap goes to Healy of Sterns and Sterns has the ball.

NARRATOR: From Maine's favorite sport, we turn now to the national pastime, as Eddie Owen talked not so long ago with baseball's greatest slugger.

OWEN: In the midst of the World Series it seems odd to be talking with a very famous name in baseball history about fishing, flying in the state of Maine but that's what exactly what I'm doing now because over here at the Downeast Flying Service, I just managed to catch Ted Williams before he hopped out of one plane into a car and, I believe, into another plane, is that right, Ted?

WILLIAMS: Well, that's right. I might just add that even though we're up here in the state of Maine and we're thinking about fishing, we're also thinking about that World Series. I think everybody in the country, of course, is interested in the series, and I know I certainly am. In fact the first question I asked when we got off the plane is who's coming out, who, where?

OWEN: And it's been quite a series so far, too, especially the way Durocher has moved those Giants along for two straight.

WILLIAMS: Well that's true. Any club, of course, that's getting the pitching, and everybody looks good. The defense of the ball club, the manager, everybody else. Especially when you're held to one or two runs like Cleveland's been held to. That's kind of surprising. I just hope that Cleveland, being an American leaguer, I just hope that Cleveland hasn't fallen into the same problem that the Red Sox did in '50, in '46, when we won the pennant by 10 games or, and had since two weeks before the series and by

the time the series had started, why we were a cold ballclub and heck, we couldn't do anything. And I'm just beginning to wonder whether or not Cleveland is following it that same problem.

OWEN: Now I take it that you are on your way on your way back home now, Ted?

WILLIAMS: That's right, I'm on my way back to Boston. And then from there to Miami. I certainly hope that Cleveland can get rolling here and can even up this series because I think I'm gonna have a chance to see them in New York if they come and I certainly would like to see the last couple of games.

OWEN: We hope you can make that. Apart from line drives, I understand you've been using the fishing lines just a bit in this trip to Maine, Ted.

WILLIAMS: Well, that's right. I come up here just after the last game of the season and I've been way up in the northern part of Maine fishing several different rivers and ponds up there and I've had just a perfectly marvelous time. I caught a lot of fish and enjoyed the scenery and the air and the hospitality of such a wonderful state as Maine.

OWEN: And that hospitality will always be open to you, Ted, you know that and we hope that you'll be coming back this way again. And if we ever have the opportunity to come along with the microphone again we hope that you'll drop by and say a few words. Thank you very much, Ted Williams.

NARRATOR: This is Operation Progress on WLBZ, a recorded record of 33 years of serving Maine with the best in radio and marking our big move from our home of 30 years on Main Street to our new facility on outer Broadway. And through the years we've made many friends, both private citizens and those in public life who have sent messages of congratulations to WLBZ on the occasion of our transfer of operations. For example, Congressman Frank M Coffin.

COFFIN: Fellow citizens in the Bangor area, this is a pleasure for me to be able to join with others in paying tribute to WLBZ radio for a significant move which they are making. I was about 7 years old when WLBZ radio first started operating. It has been operating with distinction in the Bangor area for about a third of a century and the present moved from 100 Main to outer Broadway signalizes not just the success and maturity and progressiveness of WLBZ radio, but it also symbolizes something that will happen, I hope, with increasing frequency all over Maine: the exchanging of facilities which have seen their day, which have been well used, but which now yield to new buildings where all functions can be coordinated under one roof. What WLBZ is doing today is a process that I hope will be repeated by many other industries all over this state. And as one of the family of new industries, or new housing for industries, WLBZ radio is entitled to our respect, our commendation, but also our gratitude. [Music]

NARRATOR: WLBZ continually seeks out the unusual and many times finds rich anecdotes connecting the present with the past. For example, Horace Chaplin, with stories about the famed old Bangor House.

CHAPLIN: Bangor House was a community project by a group of lumbermen in Bangor who wanted to have a hotel which would impress the visitors. That was at the time of the big boom in Bangor and Penobscot timberlands and they were selling timberlands, rights for timber lands, of more or less

doubtful value perhaps and timber. It was the Bangor House was opened in 1834 with a big ball and much ceremony. And at that time it was very much in the headlines. The American Magazine of that day stated that it was a most luxurious hotel that it even boasted a bathing room and was only equalled by the Tremont House in Boston for its luxury.

INTERVIEWER: That was quite, quite an endorsement. That was built on more or less this the same location where the Bangor House now stands?

CHAPLIN: Yes, the original building was the brick building now at the corner of Union and Main, and Main streets. The original entrance was on Union Street and it came to the second floor. The dining room and the office and so forth were on the second floor. Then the street was cut down and the office was dropped to the floor below.

INTERVIEWER: And that's where the structural lies generally and now. I understand from what I've heard about this Bangor House that you had a very distinguished guests here at a big banquet the first year that it was open there, back in the 1800's.

CHAPLIN: Daniel Webster at that time was candidate for President United States and of course was very enthusiastically received by all the people in New England. And he was a guest of honor at a banquet with many flowery speeches telling what a wonderful man he was.

INTERVIEWER: Now I know there are many delightful anecdotes that have come out of the history of the Banger House. I think that one about Carrie Nation is certainly worth repeating in our discussion of the Bangor House, Mr. Chapman. Could you tell us a bit about that?

CHAPLIN: Carrie Nation, who was a great Prohibitionist and used to hatchet to destroy bar rooms and so forth, came to Bangor with the purpose of cleaning up Bangor. And she hit the Bangor House first. Bangor at that time was running the so called Bangor plan where you ran a bar and twice a year you paid a fine and that took the place of a license. But Carrie came to Bangor. My grandfather had been forewarned that she was coming and the bar was tightly locked. She came in, asked for a drink and was told no liquor was sold, roamed around and was unable to find the bar. She then went to the dining room and ordered a drink in the dining room. Very politely told that the Bangor House sold no liquor, she said she knew better. But they said, no. Then a friend of my grandfather's, Mr. Hersey, who was sitting right near her table called the boy over and said he would have a whiskey and soda. Carrie thereupon blew up had jumped to her feet and started making a scene. My grandfather was waiting outside the door, rushed in grabbed her around the waist and started to drag her out. She threw both arms around one of the pillars at the rear entrance to the dining room and hung on. And a quite a tug of war ensued for a while until the same Mr. Hersey reached up with a cigar and put it on the back of her hand. She let go quickly and grandfather carried her downstairs and out very firmly out through the front office and that was the last of Carrie Nation in the Bangor House.

NARRATOR: Now another famous Maine host, Rufus Googins of the Jed Prouty Tavern in Bucksport.

INTERVIEWER: What was tavern life like back in the in the old days when this place...?

GOOGINS: Well in tavern life, you know, the cook always went out to meet the guests. He went out, when the guests come in, he went out there, old white apron on, and he'd have a soup ladle in one hand and a boot knife in the other. And he showed he was a good cook, if there isn't too much grease on his hands and sleeves, don't you know, he would wipe his hand on his apron, don't you know, perhaps his nose at the same time or something.

INTERVIEWER: The common idea of a tavern today is a place mainly for drinking.

GOOGINS: Yes, that's the way, but then it didn't. If was an old fashioned tavern keeper, you know, he was what they call mine hose, they always used to say. Those days are gone, there's no more host. You go to a hotel now, you wouldn't know who runs it, who owns it, or anything.

INTERVIEWER: That's very true.

GOOGINS: There's no hand of fellowship. They just want your money.

INTERVIEWER: What about some of the prices back in the old days?

GOOGINS: Oh, they're way back, a dollar a day, 25 cents for your breakfast, 25 cents for your bread, dinner and all, 25 cents each. Then if you had a horse, we'd feed the horse and put him to bed for a quarter. And if you had good luck, all right. If you got your pay, you're lucky.

NARRATOR: A prominent Maine resident and also a world-renowned musician, Maestro Pierre Monteux, recently celebrated his 85th birthday. One of the most familiar summer events in Maine is the Domaine School for Conductors at Hancock to which leading conductors of world famous orchestras come each summer to place themselves under the guidance of Maestro Monteux. In 1952, WLBZ News interviewed Monteux at the school.

INTERVIEWER: Well, is all your instructing work carried on right here with the orchestra or do you have discussion sessions?

MONTEUX: Well sometimes, sometimes we have what we call a quiz. You know, some of them come to my house there and they can ask me any kind of question, except personal.

INTERVIEWER: They told me you had a sense of a humor and they certainly were right. Oh, I understand that you have public concert here.

MONTEUX: Yes, we have every Sunday we have a concert of orchestra which Mr. Baroni conducts and those concerts, of course, the public is paying and that money goes always to some charity and I don't know exactly where it goes, you know, but it goes always to charity. Now we have some chamber music concerts and those chamber music concerts, the public also pay, and the money goes to the pupil who take part in those concerts. And we have also on Friday night, recital, concert recital, and also what they make in those recitals, that's for them.

INTERVIEWER: And the public is of course...

MONTEUX: O, the public are very enthusiastic. Sometimes it will be a full house there, you know, and which is something because we have about 500 chairs here and the public is really very faithful. The school is always going to go.

INTERVIEWER: Thank you very much.

NARRATOR: [Music] This is Operation Progress transcribed on WLBZ, the marking of a milestone in the 33 year history of the main station for Maine people. Today WLBZ transfers its headquarters from the familiar 100 Main Street in Bangor to our new, completely modern facility on outer Broadway. Studios, production center, offices, transmitter all are under one roof in a building specifically designed for radio broadcasting. Many people in many walks of life has sent us congratulations on the occasion of the big move. Maine's Governor, Congressmen, Senators, fellow broadcasters, prominent Maine educators, such as Dr. Lloyd H Elliott, President of the University of Maine.

ELLIOTT: It is indeed a pleasure to congratulate radio station WLBZ upon the occasion of your moving to a new home. Down through the years, the University of Maine has been greatly aided by the help of WLBZ in many of its activities. It has rendered to the public a great service through broadcasting university events such as musical programs, athletic events, dramatical productions, and a host of other things. And for many years the university's radio program was carried over WLBZ. This was, of course, a laboratory for teaching our students. I do indeed join with a great deal of pleasure your entire listening audience in congratulating you upon this development.

[transcript ends]

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