

TELEVISION ★ RADIO ★ NEWS AND PROGRAMS

Football Takes Over Radio, Video Tonight; Bill Gargan Signs \$1,000,000 Contract

BY WALTER AMES

Football takes over on radio and television tonight as another season of kicking the pigskin around gets under way. For radio fans tonight, KLAC broadcasts the University of California at Los Angeles-Texas A&M battle from the Memorial Coliseum starting at 8:15 p.m.

For those who prefer to take their football sitting down in their living rooms, KHJ (9) inaugurates a 23-game schedule of telecasts of games featuring the powerful Southern California junior colleges. Tonight's affair is between Pasadena JC and Santa Ana JC in the Rose Bowl at 8 p.m.

In the latter game local viewers will sit in on the launching of a new career for a young man whose name has been in the local sports news for the past 10 years. He's handsome Jim Hardy, ex-football great of the SC Trojans, making his bow as a sportscaster.

Jim dropped in for lunch the other day to talk about his new job. I found him a very likable fellow who is working hard



Jim Hardy

to take full advantage of his opportunity. He admitted it would probably seem strange talking about a great tackle instead of being on the field making one. Last year Jim was first-string quarterback with the Chicago Cardinal pro team but dropped the sport to concentrate on a business career with the H. Les Hoffman Television company.

"I went to Compton last week with Bill Symes (ex-Stanford grid star who will do the color on the telecasts) to do a dry run on tape for the

experience," Jim told me. "That one run-through convinced me that sportscasters have a far from easy life. Some of the footballers' names are real tongue-twisters. I'm for having every player named Smith, Jones or Hardy."

One thing that will probably handicap Hardy and Symes tonight is the lack of background material on the players they are talking about. Most of the junior colleges have been in session only a few days and the press relations departments haven't caught up with all the gridiron talent. But they promise to give the telecast the old college try. I predict this for the viewers: They won't see a more handsome pair of telecasters than these on their screen this season.

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Bill Gargan, ousted from his Martin Kane, Private Eye, role last spring, came up with a much better deal yesterday. He signed an exclusive radio-television contract in New York with NBC which guarantees him \$1,000,000 over a five-year period. Bill will star in both mediums in a new show, "Barrie Crane, Confidential Investigator," as well as make four radio and TV guest shots a year for the network. His first guest will be on the Tallulah Bankhead Big Show in Paris this Sunday. He flies there today.

Congressman Donald L. Jackson, member of the House Un-American Activities Subcommittee meeting locally, will be the guest of the News Is Our Business panel tonight at 8 on KFWB.

After first announcing a 12-hour microwave telecast for Sunday, KTSN (2) canceled it at the last moment Wednesday night. Yesterday, however, arrangements were made to bring the first East-to-West show over the transcontinental facilities Sunday in behalf of the Crusade for Freedom drive. It begins

at noon for an hour with Ed Sullivan of Toast of the Town fame spearheading an all-star show. The channel will then resume its regular schedule until 8:15 p.m. when a half-hour all-star program will be originated in Hollywood for a West-to-East telecast.

TV TIDBITS—Frank Wright, emcee of KTTV's (11) Pet Exchange show, says he'll have a piano-playing chimpanzee on his show tonight at 7:30. The talented fellow is named Tom Harmon . . . The popular Cass County Boys are taping several radio shows with Gene Autry before leaving on a cross-country tour with the cowboy . . . Sarah Churchill, actress-daughter of Winston, signed with CBS for her own informal 15-minute Sunday show to begin in the East Oct. 7 . . . Chef Milani will prepare several sea-food dishes, including bouillabaisse, on his show tonight at 9, KNBH (4) . . . KTTV's (11) On the Town show takes viewers to the County Fair fun zone this evening at 9 . . . Babe Herman of baseball fame and Jeff Cravath of football renown are seen on J. C. Flippen's new show, Find the Ball, tonight at 10, KECA (7) . . . Mama, starring Peggy Wood and Judson Laire, returns to local screens tonight at 8, KTSN (2) . . .