

THE TRAVELERS
BROADCASTING SERVICE CORPORATION
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

PART NO.

2

START
INSIDE

LATERAL
CUT

SPEED

78

M-1227

Miss Adeline Gray
Manchester Hostess
9-1-43

Miss GRAY
Resnik-Miller-England, Inc., Advertising

152 TEMPLE STREET, NEW HAVEN, CONN.

CLIENT:

STATION:

PROGRAM:

REMARKS:

W.T.I.C.

Manchester hostess

BROADCAST:

2:00-2:30 P.M.

DATE:

Sept. 1, 1943.

NETWORK:

Page 1.

THEME:

ANN:

Two o'clock wednesday afternoon and time for Grace Graham,
Manchester's Hostess.

CHIMES:

G.G.

Hello neighbors! I wonder what you all are doing today.
Is it canning--or are you knee-deep in housecleaning? These
are very very busy days for all of us, aren't they? In my
visits with all the new-comers I find everyone doing some-
thing extra. I wonder if we'll ever be content again with
just housekeeping and the daily routine which made up our
lives a few years ago. One of the questions I'm asked so
frequently is "How can I get into Red Cross work?" We all
seem to have the urge to do something extra, and I doubt
if we'll ever slow down again. Certainly this busy life is
interesting, and exciting! There is room for all of us
in Red [^]Cross work -- Mrs. Reed, the secretary of the Manchester
Chapter was speaking the other day about the busy plans for
the fall activities-- the sewing rooms, the surgical dressing
rooms--the new classes for First-Aiders--and the classes
for home-nursing, all of these need our help and co-operation
These home-nursing classes are a very worth-while Red Cross
service for the community-- nowadays, when all the doctors are

Pioneer had been working on something new -- a nylon Parachute. Government inspectors came to see it. Well, it looked swell, but they'd like to see a real test. Adeline Gray was given the job. Several days later, the Army and Navy officials, with experts from the factory came out to Brainard Field.

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SOUND: AIRPLANE MOTORS, NOT TOO LOUD -- JUST BACKGR UND

MAN: Colonel Jones, Commander Fish, this is Miss Gray.

COL: Well, Miss Gray, this is a pleasure. And it's a great thing you're doing for the war effort.

MISS G: That's what I want to do, sir. Help our side.

SOUND: PLANE WARMING FOR TAKEOFF

MAN: All set, Adeline. They're waiting for you.

COL: Good luck, Miss Gray, and happy landings. -- if -- uh, if all goes well, we'll see you at the banquet this evening.

MISS G: I'll be there, Colonel Jones. You can depend on it.

PLANE MOTOR ** UP IN TAKEOFF ** THEN AS IF HOVERING.

MAN: They're leveling off. She's set to jump.... Here she comes!

MENS VOICES: It's opening...She's coming down all right... The chute's good!

Look at 'er come.... Say, that girl's got pluck!...Here she is!

MAN: How'd it go, Miss Gray?

MISS G: Everything was swell. The chute is perfect.

COL: That was a fine brave thing you did, Miss Gray.

MISS G: Not at all, Colonel -- and I'll be seeing you all right at that banquet!

BREAK: THEN BANQUET SOUNDS.....

VOICES: Here she comes....Here comes Ad line Gray, the parachute jumper.....

MAN: Miss Gray, I represent Paramount films...we'd like to film a technicolor feature of you, to be released sometime in November.

VOICE: Miss Gray, have you a statement for the press?

VOICE: Miss Gray, I represent an advertizing company. We'd like to use your

VOICE: ..picture.

~~MISS~~ MISS GRAY: Well, thank you all. I'm very flattered, and I'll be glad to speak to you all -- one at a time --- and, right now, I'd like you to meet my mother.

VOICE: Mrs. Gray, have you anything to say about your daughter?

MOTHER: Well, at first I was strongly against Adeline's career -- but now, I am very proud of my daughter.

VOICE: And you should be....

VOICES: Miss Gray, hold it, photograph.. Over here, please... what a girl..

BREAK

.....

And that's part of the story of Adeline Gray. Now, listeners, here's the surprise I promised you. Throughout the dramatization, the part of Miss Gray was taken by a visitor in our studio. I'd like you to meet her. Will you introduce yourself, please.

MISS GRAY: I'll be glad to. I am Adeline Gray.

GG. with that, you know.

Dick Do you mind if I ask where you found that set ?

G G. What a foolish question ! The Wior Jewelry Company has a large selection of pen and pencil sets, in various colors, and they have a large fountain-pen department, too. All the well-known makes, Watermann -- and Sheaffers'--and Eversharp. Either a set or a fountain pen alone would make a very nice gift for some young person who's going back to high-school or college, soon. And for school parties, when young ladies like to be decked out, I saw the prettiest sets of a wide stretchy bracelet, with an adorable locket to match. I can remember way back when my favorite sister was just a sweet young thing, she had a bracelet like those I saw in Wior's. It's an old-fashioned design that has come back to popularity in the last year or two--it seems to be made on rubber bands, or something; anyway it doesn't open, but stretches to slip over the hand . I've noticed quite a few of them being worn-- the young girls seem to like them very much. Whether it's a birthday present, or just a gift because you like someone, you'll find some lovely things to choose from, at Wior's, that's spelled W-I-O-R-S, Jewelry Store, 977 Main St.

Dick How much longer, Grace, before you're going to let us meet your guest ? She's being very patient--

G.G. We're going to hear from her right now, Dick. Our orchid-winner today is a very charming young lady, who has had, and is having, a most extraordinary career-- she's a parachute-jumper ! She has a very important place in the war-effort, too; she is the only ^{licensed} woman parachute rigger ~~at~~ employed at the

G.G. Pioneer Parachute Company, in Manchester. As I understand it, a rigger is one who folds and packs the parachute, ready for use, so it's a very responsible job ! Her name, as you've all probably guessed, is Miss Adeline Gray ! Good-afternoon, Miss Gray; I'm so glad you could be here with us today !

MissG. I'm enjoying it very much, Grace; you seem to have a lot of fun ,

G.G. I want you to know our announcer, Dick Westerscamp, Miss Gray; he's probably got a hundred questions to ask you !

MissG. How-do-you-do, Dick ? I feel as though I know you very well; I've heard you so often on the air !

Dick ~~HE~~do-you-do, Miss Gray; and I'm glad to hear we're friends ! Perhaps you wont mind my asking questions, then ?

MissG. Of course not, what can I tell you about ?

Dick Well, first of all, have you always lived in Manchester ?

MissG. No, I come from a small town called Oxford, Conn--that's right near Seymour--I went to Seymour High School.

G.G. And graduated with honors, too ! Oh, I didn't mean to interrupt, but that was too important to be left out ! Your witness, Dick !

Dick How did you ever happen to decide to be a parachute-jumper, Miss Gray ?

Miss G. I've wanted to fly and jump ever since I was a little girl, and we used to fly kites, and jump from the haymow-- I've always liked being " up in the air " !

Dick How did you get your training ?

Miss G. Well, actually I never had any training, that is, not the special training the Army flyers get nowadays ! They just took me up, in a plane ^{at an altitude of 2,000} leveled off at two thousand feet, and told me to jump ! Of course, that first, trial jump had to be witnessed by an inspector from

Miss G. the State Dept. of Aeronautics, then I had to pass a written exam, and a practical test in packing a parachute. This got me a jumper's license. I packed parachutes at the New Haven Airport for quite a while.

Dick How many jumps have you made, Miss Gray?

Miss G. Thirty-five; my last one was about two months ago, for Paramount Newsreel, at the Canaan Airport. But we had to get a special permits for that jump, because all civilian jumping has been stopped for the duration. You might say we're grounded!

Dick Oh, a news-reel? Will we see that at the movies?

Miss G. Yes, it ought to be out in about 2 more months; it's in technical color.

Dick Are you a flyer, too; I mean do you pilot a plane?

Miss G. Yes, I have a student-pilot's license; I'm waiting until I have two hundred hours in the air, before I apply for a regular commercial pilot's license. I have my own plane; it's at Canaan Airport; ~~because of course there's no civilian flying either, just now.~~

Civilian flying is permitted, you know, but only within a three mile radius of the airport-- I manage to get some time in the air every Sunday.

Dick How many hours have you flown already?

Miss G. One hundred and six, to date. When I get my commercial pilot license, I'd like to join the ferry command, flying planes across the ocean for the armed services.

Dick Tell us about some of your experiences, Miss Gray.

Miss G. Well-- I ~~flew~~^{jumped} ~~at~~ the Air-races at Cleveland in 1939; that was fun-- then I was with the Douglas Sky-Devils in 1940--that was when I made a high delayed smoke-jump. We had to have a

Miss G.

special permit for that jump, because it was a longer one than the rules usually allow. I fell through the air 8000 ft. before I pulled the rip-cord, ^{That} ~~when~~ I was about 1000 ft. from the ground. On that jump I carried a 15 pound bag of flour, and scattered it as I fell, to make a smoke-trail, as I was up so high I wasn't visible in the air. I've jumped in various towns-- at Glen Falls, N.Y, and Athol, Massachusetts and Keene, New Hampshire, and around Connecticut quite a bit.

Dick

Have you ever had any near-disasters, trouble in landing or anything like that ?

Miss G.

Oh, several times-- of course, I often get bruised or scratched a bit in landing, sometimes the ground is rougher and stonier than it looks from the air, but I've had a few narrow escapes. There was the time at Bethany, when I was scheduled to jump, and I didn't want to disappoint folks; there was a fifty mile an hour wind blowing--

Dick

Quite a breeze--

Miss G.

It's practically impossible to steer your chute against such a wind, but I jumped anyway, and when I got down near the ground I realized that I was going to land on some high-tension power ^{lines} wires. Of course I knew that would be the end, and I couldn't get away from them-- I felt perfectly helpless, I just closed my eyes and waited for the sparks to fly. I felt myself land on the wire, and then I felt the ground under me! it took me quite a few minutes to realize I was still alive, but fate must have taken a hand, because I only hit one wire and then slid gently off it onto the ground. I wasn't hurt a bit, but if I had landed across two wires-- well, I still

Miss G. don't like to think of what might have happened. Another time, at Middlebury, I came down between a power-line and a tree, and my chute got all tangled up in the branches of the tree : One very remarkable thing that occurred on one jump, was the time I made a delayed jump on a day ~~that~~ when I had a very hard cold. Of course on those delayed jumps your body attains a very high rate of speed--perhaps that had something to do with it, but anyway, when I landed my cold had completely disappeared :

Dick That's one for the scientists to explain.]-- How does it feel to jump out into space, Miss Gray ?

Miss G. ~~It's~~ ^{Jan} It's very hard to describe the feeling, ~~Dick~~; you're sort of relaxed, and it's so quiet and peaceful up there, all alone in the air-- then there's a sharp pull or tug as the chute opens, and before you know it you're landing. Of course, on those delayed jumps, when I fall a distance before I pull the rip-cord, that's different-- there's a terrific "opening-shock", I'm practically shot back up into the canopy, with the force of it. But it's not the jumping from the plane that bothers ^{me}, it's after the chute opens, and you know you're getting close to the ground-- that's the worry ! ~~you know you're~~ ^{I feel} perfectly safe up in the air, there's nothing to bump against, and no danger, but a great many things can happen when you hit the ground !

G.G. I think getting out of the plane would absolutely paralyze me-- it would be so wonderful to see the ground, I wouldn't worry about landing-- but tell us, Miss Gray, how does your mother feel about you jumping ?

Miss G. Well, I'm afraid she didn't like it at first, but she's used to it now; in fact, I guess she's a little proud of her daughter !

G.G. ~~She should be--~~ I think it's amazing, that you can dare do it!

G.G. You were the young lady who made that test-jump, last year, for the new Nylon Parachute, they designed at Pioneer Parachute Company. Where did they make that test?

Miss G. That was at Brainard field.

G.G. Wasn't that an exciting experience?

Miss G. Well, yes, rather; there were several Army and Navy officials afterward present, and then they had a big celebration dinner ~~at the~~ and of course it got quite a lot of publicity.

G.G. This isn't the first time you've been on the radio, is it?

Miss G. No, today makes the sixth time; I did a broadcast at ~~the~~ Cleveland, in 1939, in the interest of the Air-races, and I was on a program in New York City--a short-wave broadcast for the service-men overseas-- and I was on Miss Jane Dillon's program for an interview, here at W.T.I.C.

G.G. For goodness sake, you're a veteran! A radio-personality, as well as a famous parachutist! And what did you tell me about fan-mail -- from service-men?

Miss G. I have received quite a few letters from service men in the air-force-- from Fort Bragg-- and other camps. One boy wrote that he carried my picture as a mascot! That makes me very happy!

G.G. I should think it would! This has been lots of fun, Miss Gray, and I wish we could talk a lot longer, but I suppose I must get back to work, time is getting short! I do want to present this orchid to you, in recognition of your very unusual accomplishments-- isn't that a beautiful flower?

Miss G. Oh, that's perfectly lovely; thank you very much, Grace.

G.G. Thank you for telling us about your experiences-- it's been grand, having you here. Good-bye--