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MEET THE DISC JOCKEYS

Chuck Forrest Talks —But Very Sparingly

By FIFI GORSKA Star Staff Reporter

Fast-talking Chuck Forrest talked himself into a disc jockey job with a minimum of talk.

Chuck has been the morning man at station WPGC for the last two months. His voice "unlocks" 1580 on the radio dial at 6 a.m. Monday through Saturday. Then for the next four hours, this 23-year-old applies the needle to one record after another. He also applies the gimmick that got him his job at the Prince Georges County station;

"Very little jabbering!"

Chuck believes in just introducing the record, giving the weather and time and keeping chatter at a minimum. What's more, he doesn't "double spot" commercials. Translated from trade talk, that means giving one commercial right after another.

Each day Chuck plays the top 30 tunes of the week as determined by record store sales, as well as other records too.

"I don't consciously work for a teen-age audience, but it comes out that way," explains the disc jockey who sometimes gets as many as 220 fan letters in one day.

Chuck has a theory on why it's the teen-ager who decides what is popular: "Teen-agers don't have the problems and pressures that adults do and they have more time to work at playing. Besides, kids are more receptive to new ideas in music and not so set in their ways as the grown-ups."

Chuck has found out that the teen-age audience is "more vocal," too. They keep the phone ringing in the Coral Hills broadcasting station.

"Slip up on a singer's name and the teen-agers catch you, because they know the facts. Music is their hobby," he says. Some of them are also skaptical about a gimmick Chuck uses on his show.



CHUCK FORREST -Biar Staff Photo

"To generate interest, I say I'm broadcasting from a submarine. Once an indignant teen-ager called up and told me, 'Hah! A sub, eh? Sure!' And hung up."

Chuck, a native of New York, turned to the mike when he was majoring in economics at Fordham. He was chief announcer of the University's FM radio station until he graduated in 1954. Into the Army a few months later, he got further radio experience there and here at radio station WGMS.

Chuck also transcribes commercials and helps Evelyn Swarthout produce her Music in Schools series which is piped into elementary schools in Washington,

He writes music, "plays the plano like mad" and would like to own and manage a radio station.

And if he's anything like one of his ancestors, Daniel Webster, he might talk himself into it.