

Radio Program II

(a satire)
Rawhide



- I Wuthering Heights
- II So to Speak
- III the Nymph
- IV Defense of Rawhide

Perry

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FS 3862 (FP 86-2)

RAWHIDE RADIO PROGRAM II

Descriptive Notes Are Inside Pocket

FOLKWAYS RECORDS Album FS 3862

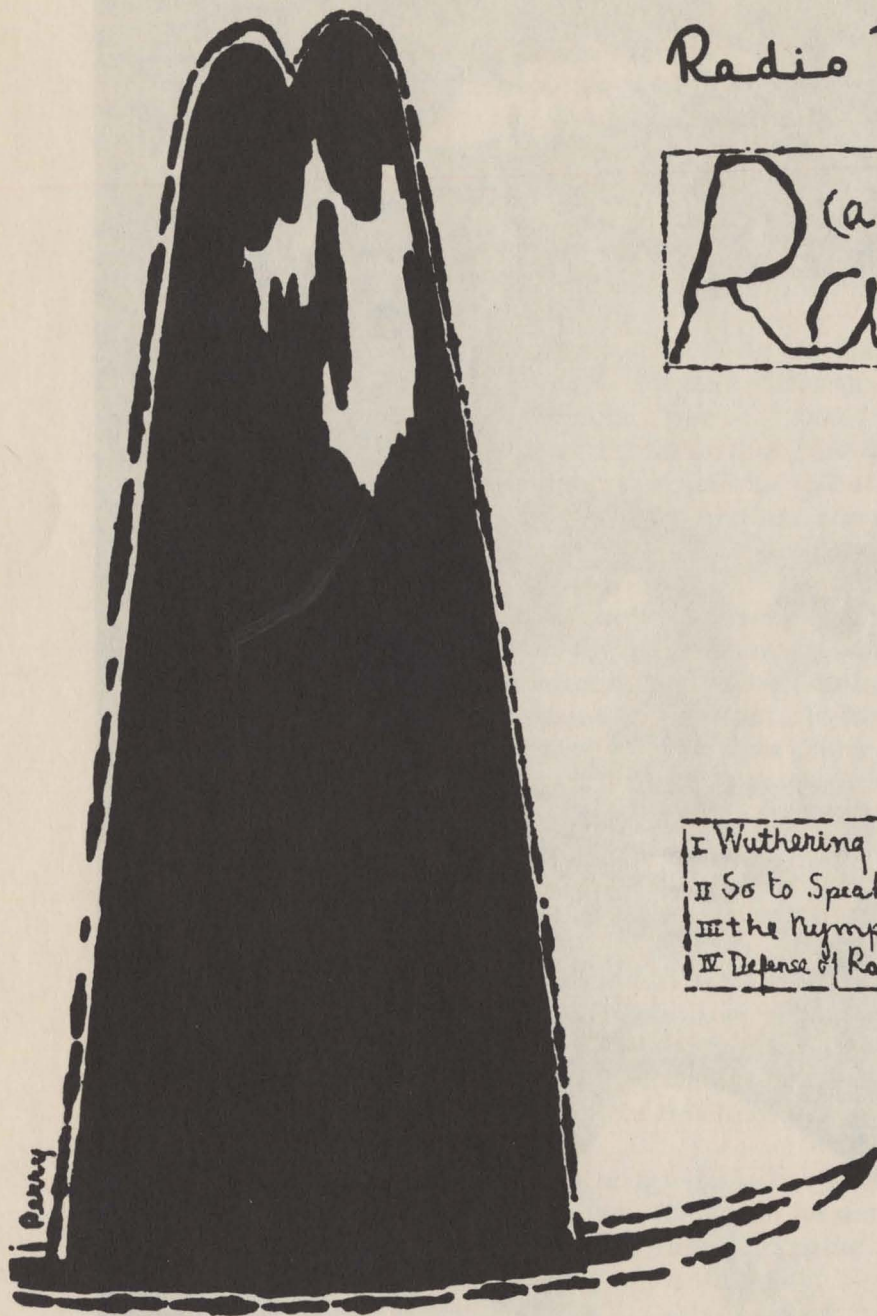
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Biography: Max Ferguson (Rawhide)

Announcer-comedian Max Ferguson is a native of Durham, England, the son of Irish parents. But he has lived most of his life in London, Ontario, where he graduated from the University of Western Ontario in 1946. In the summer holidays he had played with a radio stock company in London and neighbouring districts. Practically from infancy he had wanted to be a teacher, but his family and teachers discouraged him from this idea.

After graduation he went to station CFPL, London, as an announcer. A few months later he joined the CBC and went to Halifax, where he found himself the sole heir to a hill-billy show.

After the first show--After Breakfast Break-down--an old character called Rawhide drew the unprecedented number of 3,000 fan letters, and they kept coming in at that rate day after day. Rawhide, who turned out to be Max, was bewildered, but happy. And his show has been a howling success ever since.

He describes Rawhide as a westerner with a shady background, age unknown. Max is a man of many voices, an art he has been practising since he used to mimic his teachers in school. During the show as many as fourteen different characters, all interpreted by him, turn up at once on Rawhide's show, between recordings of hill-billy, cowboy and semi-classical tunes. His repertoire includes about two dozen voices.

Max was transferred to the CBC's Toronto studios in 1949, but his love of the Maritimes was very strong. He spent most of his summer holidays on Canada's east coast, and finally moved back to Halifax in August 1954.

A highlight of his program is his take-off on different CBC shows, in which he acts all the parts himself, in voices ranging from soprano to bass, and with tongue-in-cheek abandon.

Max is married to a cute little red-head - the former Norma Fraser of Wolfville - whom he met in Halifax. They have three children.

PROGRAM NOTES

TAPE ONE: (Side A)

Wuthering Heights A collaboration by the promising young team of Emily Bronte and Marvin Mellobell. This is highly recommended to English teachers for illustrating to unappreciative students the real meaning of tragedy in English literature. The role of Heathcliff is played by the nameless hero of all my scripts. I like him because he's the only true Canadian dialect in my repertoire... a burlesque of a manner of speaking popular in sections of the Ottawa valley... I do not mean the House of Commons.

So To Speak A salute to a CBC summer series on proper English usage originally done by Mr. W.H. Brodie, CBC Supervisor of Broadcast Language. In this take-off, we are reminded by the Supervisor of Broadcast Language for the Rawhide show that.... "Englitch well spoke is a real euphemism sound." I would like to mention here the completely free rein the CBC has always given me in matters of this sort.... a phenomenon which must astound its critics.

TAPE TWO (Side B)

The Nymph and the Lump It frightens me to think that I could listen to and thoroughly enjoy the original broadcast of Thomas Raddall's novel and then half an hour later write this adaptation. When this was first done on the Rawhide show about three years ago I was astounded and thrilled to receive a letter from Thomas Raddall saying he enjoyed it and suggesting that I had probed even more fully than he, the emotional depths of my characters. My characters have about the same emotional depth as the dwarf ponies that inhabit Sable Island where the scene is set.

The Defence of Rawhide About two years ago I received a letter from a gentleman in Cobble Hill, B.C. suggesting that I was (quote) "slightly more than pink". Having been brought up for discussion on the floor of the House of Commons (along with margarine) in 1949 this small barb didn't rankle but it afforded me the idea for a skit. Marvin Mellobell, Rawhide's pompous and adenoidal announcer, rallies all Rawhide's loyal friends in an attempt to clear the old gentleman's name. This, of course, proves to be the kiss of death.