



The first note of the upcoming Godfrey African Safari was noted in the LA Times 17 February 1957 with flight pal none other than general Curtis LeMay. The Times report said - The Safari serpentine through French Equatorial Africa under Godfrey's leadership. They overcame serious communications problems to beam regular reports back home for his millions of listeners. Godfrey and Friends achieved the heretofore unheard of feat of introducing underarm deodorant to the people of the Dark Continent.

Godfrey (K4LIB) was not without his controversy, FAA flight problems, Kenilworth Hotel accusations in Miami plus personnel problems not allowing any union in his NYC studio.

As a boy Arthur had a variety of neighborhood jobs, including mowing yards, weeding gardens, mucking out stables and shoveling snow. Later he would say that he was grateful for having this kind of boyhood background, he also enjoyed the surrounding countryside with fields and streams, below Hasbrouck Heights, the

Hackensack River where he trapped muskrats, the river was a good place to play and swim. Its brackish waters teemed with blue crabs, perch, bass and a variety of other aquatic life.

Early in his childhood, his mother attempted to make a pianist out of him, by 1912 when he was nine, she thought that she had succeeded, as he could play almost any piece by sight, but her son remained her star pupil for only a year or two because of family financial difficulties finally forced her to sell her piano. At his point she became a pianist at a local silent movie theater house. The 8 dollars a week she earned was not enough to keep the family's bills paid and things went from worse to worse.

By the time The read Head was 12, doing all kinds of odd jobs for the neighbors, both before and after school. That didn't leave much time for studies, but it did help keep the family together. Soon he had a job as a delivery boy for a bakery that also carried groceries and dairy products He earned 50 cents a day at this job plus take home all the stale bread and near sour milk that his family could eat. He soon developed a fixation about money.

Godfrey experienced the humiliation of his parents being evicted from the living quarters because they could not pay the rent. He also felt the hurt when the local grocery refused to let his mother charge even one more pound of hamburger. Later in life he always paid cash for everything that he bought.

At age 15 Arthur dropped out of Hasbrouck heights H.S. in his sophomore year and struck out on his own in the world. He was soon shining shoes in NYC and also peddling newspapers on its sidewalks. Continued on page two.

Before long the red haired freckled faced country hick had become a big city urchin. He slept on park benches and lived on three cent bowl soup and five cent hamburgers at Max's Busy Bee Lunch Wagon in downtown Manhattan. Pictured is Max at his Busy Bee Lunch wagon.



At age sixteen Godfrey was living for a time at the 23rd street branch of the YMCA in Manhattan, there in 1919 he received an invitation to participate in a musical the following Sunday evening.

Godfrey hadn't touched the piano for years and to his dismay, he found that he could not even play a simple scale or read musical notes. He had forgotten everything that his mother had taught him. Besides, his fingers were stiff from manual labor and a lack of proper finger exercises. He had lost his touch. There and then he learned the hard way, If you don't use it, you lose it!

NAHF National aviation dot Blade..
Information

One day this talented boy would have "Captain Arthur Godfrey" in gold leaf inscribed under the left cockpit window on

the gift of a DC3 by Eastern Airlines! Plus he would literally fund the payroll at CBS with the influx requests of commercial business of the art this gifted man had and America ate up and enjoyed, both TV and radio. There was no end to the list of companies waiting to have Arthur pitch their business. Entertainer, pitch man, ham operator, he was the best in his time.

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