



The voice in your kitchen

IRNA PHILLIPS, of Chicago, makes \$250,000 a year writing radio stories that 10,000,000 housewives listen to while they mind their babies, cook the dinner, and wash dishes. She dictates annually 2,000,000 words—enough to fill 27 books—and has 4 radio serials running at once (*The Guiding Light*, *Road of Life*, *Lonely Woman*, *Right to Happiness*). Twelve years ago Irna, then a school-teacher, went on a tour of a broadcasting studio. By mistake she fell in line with some actresses, landed a job. Decided the radio dramas she acted in weren't like life, and wrote a serial describing how her widowed mother had reared 10 children. It was a success, and she's based her "soap operas" on actual people and events ever since. Most popular of her 50-odd characters is Dr. John Ruthledge, a small-town minister who for five years has been preaching the Golden Rule, Irna's own philosophy of living. Another favorite is Dr. Brent, who mends broken legs and broken hearts with equal skill. Unmarried, Irna keeps house for herself, has adopted a year-old boy. Right now she's building a new serial around the problems of a lone woman with a child. In the picture, Miss Phillips is dreaming up a plot while her secretary, Rose Cooperman, takes notes.

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