

FRANK SINATRA

Ben Gross, radio columnist for the New York *Daily News*, called it a “frightening exhibit of juvenile delinquency” as he referred to the “hords of brawling, loud-mouthed, pushing girls who all but committed mayhem in quest of autographs, made broadcasts horrendous with their hysterical screams, cluttered entrances to stage doors and night clubs long after the midnight hour and often took part in barbaric demonstrations.”

He was writing about the fans of Frank Sinatra.

In the mid-1940s, Sinatra was known as “The Voice” and whenever Frankie sang, the bobbysoxers swooned.

After several years as a band singer with Harry James and Tommy Dorsey, the young singer struck out on his own. Following a sensational record-breaking appearance at New York’s Paramount Theatre, Sinatra was ready for radio.

He became the number one singer on *Your Hit Parade* on NBC in 1943 and did double on-the-air duty when he began his own show on CBS in 1944.

And the girls continued to swoon.

Bobbysoxers in Hollywood began gathering at CBS studios 12 hours before Sinatra’s Wednesday night broadcast. They brought lunches and scrap books and compared notes and exchanged gossip about their idol. By mid-afternoon traffic was blocked as the crooner’s excited fans waited for their place of honor: a seat at a Sinatra broadcast.

Not everyone could be admitted to the studio as the demand for seats far outnumbered the theatre’s capacity, so the lucky ones got in as the others ran home to tune in on the air.

They joined millions of listeners who set their dial to hear the popular singer croon and his studio audience squeal and scream from coast-to-coast.

In addition to his own network programs, Sinatra starred on *Your Hit Parade* from 1943 to 1945 and again from 1947 to 1949. He continued to provide entertainment for radio listeners until 1958.