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Espe Alegria: Cultural Advisor and Voice of the Basques in American Radio

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EUSKAL HERRIA MUGAZ GAINDI
"BASQUE COUNTRY BEYOND BORDERS"
7TH INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR
JULY 30, 2010

The Basque Program



KBOI (950)	
KBOI-FM (97.9 mcs)	
8:00 a.m. 'til Sign Off	
MONDAY	
5:30	Top o' the Morning
6:00	News—Top o' the Morning
6:30	News—Top o' the Morning
7:00	World News Roundup
7:30	News—Top o' the Morning
7:50	Morning News Beat
8:00	News*—Top o' the Morning
8:30	News—Top o' the Morning
9:00	News*
9:15	Happy Talk
9:20	Mainly for Women
9:30	Back to the Bible
10:00	News—Arthur Godfrey*
11:00	News—Houseparty
11:35	Garry Moore Show
11:45	Jackie Journal
11:55	In Hollywood
12:00	News*—Weather, RFD 950
12:30	One Woman's Washington
1:00	News*—Hub Warner Show
1:30	Woman's World
2:00	News*—Hub Warner Show
2:30	Woman's World
3:00	News—Hub Warner Show
3:30	Woman's World
4:00	News*—Road Show
4:30	Sidelights*
5:00	News*—Road Show
5:30	News, Sports
5:35	Today in Finance
5:45	Lowell Thomas—Sports
6:00	Western Edition
6:15	World Tonight
6:30	Phonopinion
7:00	News
7:10	News Analysis
7:15	World Wide Sports
7:30	Observation USA
7:40	Evening With Kay Boy
8:00	News—Evening With K-Boy
8:30	Basque Program
9:00	News—Music 'til Midnight
12:00	Sign Off News
	*CBS

- Began ca. 1952 with the financial support of *Euskaldunak, Inc.*
- Radio as communication medium
- Unique in that Basque language and music restricted under Franco's rule, but could be aired in the United States
- One of a handful of radio shows in the United States spoken in Basque (Buffalo, Wyo.)

The Basque Program: Volunteer Hosts



Julian Lachiondo
(ca. 1952-1953)



Espe Alegria,
"Voice of the Basques"
(1955-1982)



Inaki Eiguren
(1982-1986?)

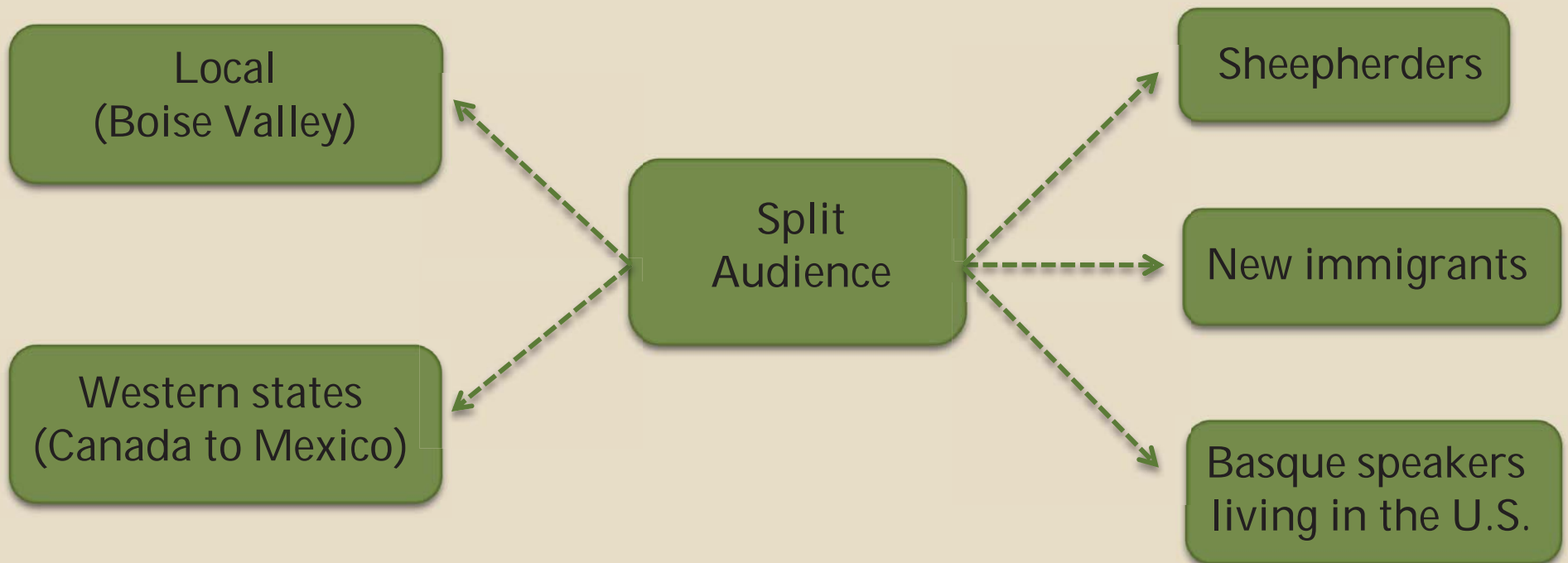
Cecii Jayo
(ca. 1954)

The Basque Program: Listeners

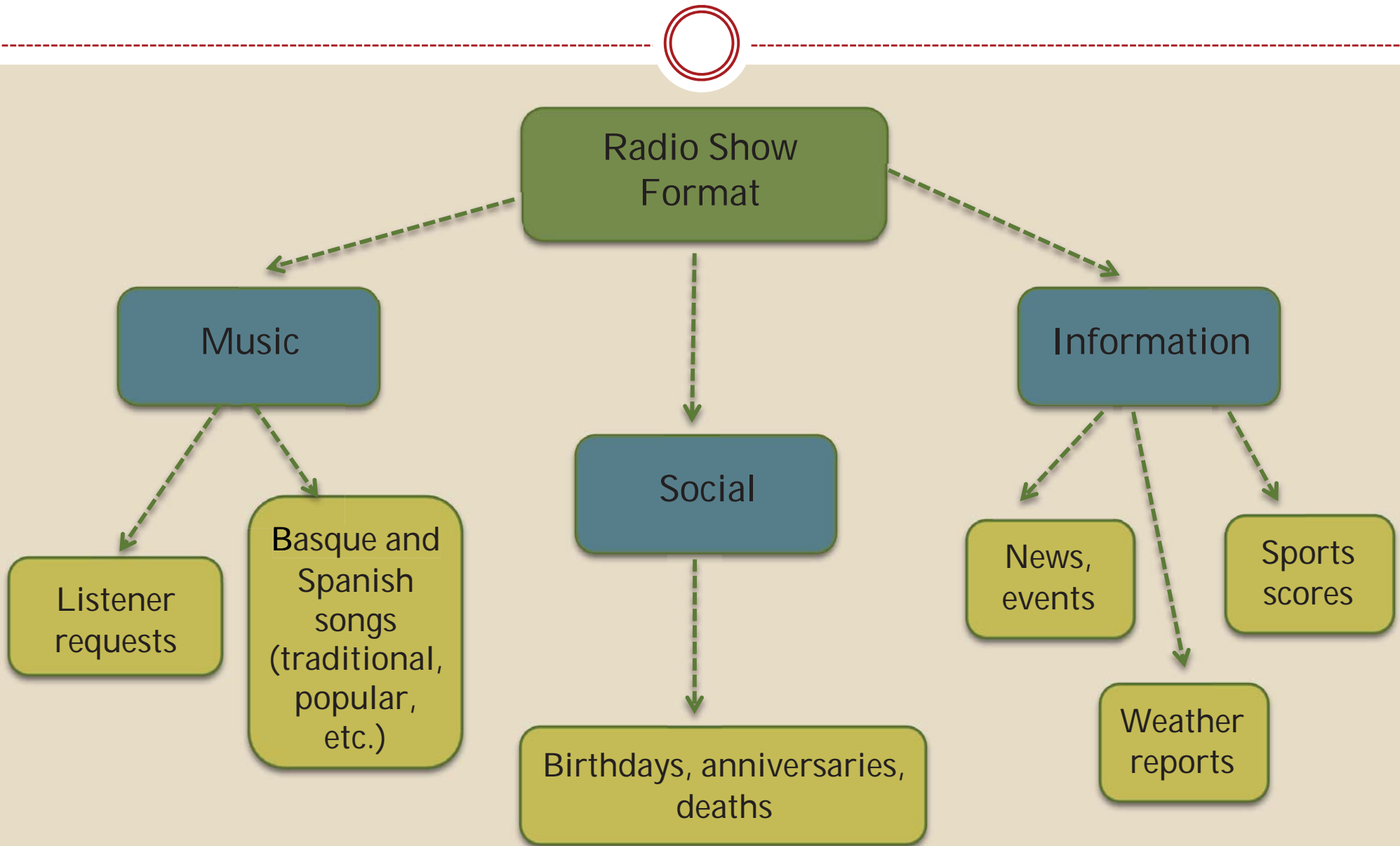


"[The Basque Program] brought an hour of enjoyment to those who were making the transition to the American way of life."

– Teddy Khteian-Keeton



The Basque Program Format



Espe's Role in *The Basque Program*



"Shepherding was boring and miserable, with only Espe Alegria's Sunday radio program to entertain [us] in the desolate wilderness; [we] went to the top of a mountain each time to listen."

– Jesus Sillonis, shepherd and camp tender

Espe's Translation and Immigration Services



Espe and Henry visited with sheepherders in their camps to assist with their immigration paperwork or bring them supplies

"I am always busy. I never know what I'm going to be doing from one day to the next...[I'll] get a call from the federal court to be an interpreter for a new arrival, or to help an alien resident with his or her citizenship papers...Or [I] will be asked to translate a will from Basque or Spanish to English."

– Espe

Tribute to the Basque (1956)



"Espe was instrumental in our efforts to mount a first-class national art show of the Basque community."
– Teddy Khetian-Keeton



Sand portrait of Victoria Urresti
by Boise artist Luther Douglas



Amuma's Story by Boise artist
Fairy Frank (Teddy Keeton)

Espe's Basque Music Collection



- Owned hundreds of albums of traditional and unique Basque music used on radio show
- Donated them to ISHS before her death
- First Basque Music Archive in United States

Espe's Legacy: Boise's Basque Powerhouse



"Our community is indebted to Espe for fostering Basque spirit and communication in her very special way – with tact, diplomacy, and especially, with a sense of fun and an unbounded joy for living."

– Bethine Church

Thanks for Attending!



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