



NEWS FROM THE ZB STATIONS

"Fourth-At-Bridge Service"

MANY a bright idea, to paraphrase an old expression, is spoken in jest. Goodman Ace, author and co-star of the ZB network Easy Aces programme, introduced into the continuity at one stage in America a make-believe service for supplying a fourth hand at bridge. And now several business-minded listeners have written to Mr. Ace with a view to launching just such a service.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Ace sensed there might be commercial possibilities in his plan when he wrote it into his programme (which is heard on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8.15 p.m., on all ZB Stations).

"The Fourth-at-Bridge Service" functions like an escort service (in the script, of course), and supplies what Mr. Ace calls "bridge gigolos" for parties needing an extra hand.

The response to the "Fourth-at-Bridge Service" is nothing new to this actor-author. He has seen many of his Easy Aces script ideas crop up in places where he least expected to find them.

Goodman Ace is full of ideas. One of his ideas concerns a play for radio which he hopes to write when he gets time. It is his hope that the play will be to radio what cream is to coffee!

In the meantime, listeners are thoroughly enjoying "Easy Aces."

OWING to current restrictions, the Broadcasting Services of New Zealand were unable to broadcast the description of the Melbourne Cup. However, Bernie McConnell, 4ZB's up-to-the-minute Sports Announcer, was on the air with the result less than a minute after the official placings went up at Flemington. Snappy work — broadcasting the result of a race in Australia before the horses had returned to the bird-cage.

Great Composers' Loves

The newest regular Sunday feature, "Loves of Great Composers," which is broadcast from 1ZB every Sunday evening at 7.30, is probably unique in the fact that it is written, produced and acted entirely by members of 1ZB's staff, and is a praiseworthy example of the northern station's ambition to produce an increasing number of its own features. The writer of the script is the announcer Guy Nixon, who has already shown his ability to write radio script in the just concluded popular Sunday continuity programme, "Organ Reveries with Charles Tuckwell." Guy Nixon's effort is all the more noteworthy because of his youth: he celebrated his twentieth birthday on November 5. "Loves of Great Composers" dramatises the romantic side of famous masters of music, and each scene is linked with examples of their music. Composers so far dealt with in the series have been Wagner, Mendelssohn, and Chopin.

Thought-Provoking Books

We have spoken before of the excellent broadcasts conducted by Dr. W. B. Sutch in his "Book Review" Sessions from 2ZB on Friday evenings, and in this connection it must have been particularly interesting for listeners who like to be up-to-the-minute with their news in reading, to hear Dr. Sutch's talk last Friday. Dr. Sutch deals with books from two angles. First, they must be topical and easily procurable by the average listener; and second, they must have a bearing on the life with which the average man is familiar. Not that Dr. Sutch confines his reviews to current events only, or to heavy philosophical tomes, but generally speaking, one will always find in his talks much that is current, topical and within reach of everybody. Last week he spoke on Joseph McCabe's "Social Record of

Christianity." McCabe is a well-known authority on religion, and particularly on Christianity; and he has many statements to make which are fresh and provocative. For example, he says, "In Roman times Christians were not thrown to the lions," and proceeds to prove his statement with documentary evidence. Then again he says: "Before the Christ-

as regards hospitality and weather. This year, we suspect, the unusual spell of heat was imported, for Ken Waterhouse, popular 3ZB announcer, had just arrived back from an extended tour abroad, and had spent quite a bit of time in India. Sultriness that would reduce most of us to helpless greas-spots has only one noticeable effect on Ken—a broad grin that spreads across his features.

This trip of Ken's was no sudden impulse—he had worked and planned for years to make it possible, and since he has a happy knack of conveying the pleasures of his tour over the air, 3ZB's listeners have been reaping the benefit. In the Children's Session the other night, Ken kept Gracie, Jacko and Storyman keenly interested for an all-too-short quarter-hour, and the young listeners' parents have shown through the mail-bag that they were just as appreciative as their offspring. Ken will have plenty more to tell at a later date.

Off Duty

Central Otago seems to have a special appeal for announcers at 4ZB. Recently Alec McDowell spent a short time at Ranfurly before going to Wellington, and now Brian McCaw is basking in the sunshine at Wanaka. Brian has become so intrigued with the restful country atmosphere that he found it necessary to ring the Station to see when he was due back on duty! That is the kind of holiday one always wishes for, to take one's mind completely off the job.

The Skull and Crossbones

The episodes of "Mutiny on the High Seas" at present broadcast from 1ZB on Tuesday and Thursday nights at 9.30 deal with the exploits of the notorious Captain Kidd. The Encyclopædia Britannica describes this gentleman soberly as "Kidd, William (Captain Kidd) (1645-1701) privateer and pirate, was of obscure origin. Hanged in England May 23, 1701." But the radio feature turns him into a colourful, swashbuckling rogue who sailed gloriously on his inglorious way under the skull and crossbones in the days when Britain never really ruled the waves, unless her unrecognised pirates and privateers did it for her. Like the rest of the "Mutiny on the High Seas" series, "Captain Kidd" gives listeners the inside story of some little-known episodes in England's sea history as well as exciting and dramatic radio fare.



"JILL," of 5ZB (the Exhibition Studio) is not a bit scared by the ultra-modern lion outside the British Pavilion. As you can see, the photograph was taken on one of Wellington's windy days

ian era, and particularly in Roman days and in Egyptian and Babylonian days, women were free and on an equal basis with men. In Judea alone in the ancient days were women unjustly treated." Dr. Sutch does a great deal for our sluggish and take-it-for-granted attitude by bringing to our notice much in the literature of the day that is sure to provoke thought.

Not Too Hot for Him

Christchurch has a habit of treating racegoers well during Cup Week, both

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