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## Aunt Daisy's Trip To America (5)

**D**URING my visit I took part in 27 broadcast programmes, and they really were "different" and quite interesting—to me, at any rate. For instance, there was *Listen—The Women*, which is a kind of Women's Brains Trust, and good fun. It is very popular, and is going to be started in South America, I understand. I think we could easily work it up in New Zealand. It is a Blue Network half-hour programme, and comes on Sunday afternoon. Like all American programmes, it is a "live show"—that is, it is held in a large studio-theatre, which is filled with an audience who have applied for tickets. These studio shows go on all day and every day, and every evening, too; and are always packed—in New York, in Chicago, in Hollywood, in San Francisco—everywhere. Some shows, of course, have terrific waiting-lists, such as Charlie McCarthy, Gracie Fields, Fibber McGee and Molly, Bing Crosby and Red Skelton—and of course, *Command Performance* and *Mail Call*, at which the



GINNY SIMS, American radio star, autographs a portrait of herself for Aunt Daisy.

popular stars all appear gratis. If you stay long enough you can see almost every show and every star, from Ronald Colman, Lionel Barrymore, little Margaret O'Brien, and Toscanini conducting the NBC Symphony Orchestra, down to *Take It or Leave It*, and *Stage Door Canteen*. The field is wide; it includes everything; it is America! There is something for everybody.

### Listen—The Women

In *Listen—The Women* you have a Question-Mistress, who sits at a table on one side of the stage, facing the panel of four women at another table. The Question-Mistress and three of the panel are permanent; the fourth member is a guest. They have had Vicki Baum the novelist; Eleanor Darnton, woman's editor of the *New York Times*; Margaret Bourke-White, an international war correspondent and photographer for *Life*, and numbers of interesting women visitors from all over the world. The Question-Mistress is Janet Hanner, of the *New Yorker Magazine*, who lived for 17 years in Europe, mostly Paris, and gave to her New York readers an intimate picture of the personalities of the day. She hopes to return there soon and continue that work. On the panel are Mildred Thomson, Dean of Vassar College, a very keen-witted woman, and Thyra Winslow, a journalist and story-writer, who always sees the funny side of the question, and whose provocative comments liven up the whole programme. The questions come in from all parts of the country; some are controversial, some serious, some trivial. I think a committee picks out the questions to be dealt with each Sunday; but the panel-members have not the slightest idea what is going to be fired at them.

(continued on next page)



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