

IRVINE LAWRENCE



J. E. NEWMAN

## NELSON'S TWO-MAN RADIO STATION

### Manager and Technician Run 2YN

WHEN, during a recent visit to Nelson, *The Listener* called at Station 2YN, we found the station manager (Irvine Lawrence) busily tapping at a typewriter. Thinking he must be engaged on some important official memorandum or perhaps a private letter, we started to withdraw. "No, it's quite all right. Don't go," said Mr. Lawrence. "I'm only typing out the programmes for *The Listener*."

We must have looked incredulous, for Mr. Lawrence hastened to explain that Station 2YN, Nelson, consists of only two persons — himself, as officer-in-charge, doing the administrative work, and the typing, and so on; and J. E. Newman, as technician, keeping the unit going on its technical side.

"And the announcing?" we asked. "Who does that?"

"We both do," replied Mr. Lawrence. "We're 'only on the air in the evenings, so we split up the time, and one of us gets a free evening to go to a movie or concert, or stay at home, while the other does the 'job. But, as you can perhaps imagine, we're kept pretty busy."

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Actually, according to Price, any person with the requisite determination, steadiness and confidence can walk unharmed over a fire as hot as 800 degrees Centigrade—many times hotter than the fires usually walked on in India, and probably hotter than any fire-walker anywhere has ever trodden on before. In many articles on fire-walking it is invariably found that noisy showmanship takes the place of scientific procedure. Photographic evidence, together with a mass of scientific data, has, therefore, solved a mystery which has puzzled humanity for at least 2000 years.

But we do not advise our readers to indulge in experiments lightly. What purpose does fire-walking serve anyway?

Thinking of the programmes for *The Listener* still waiting to be typed, we certainly could imagine it.

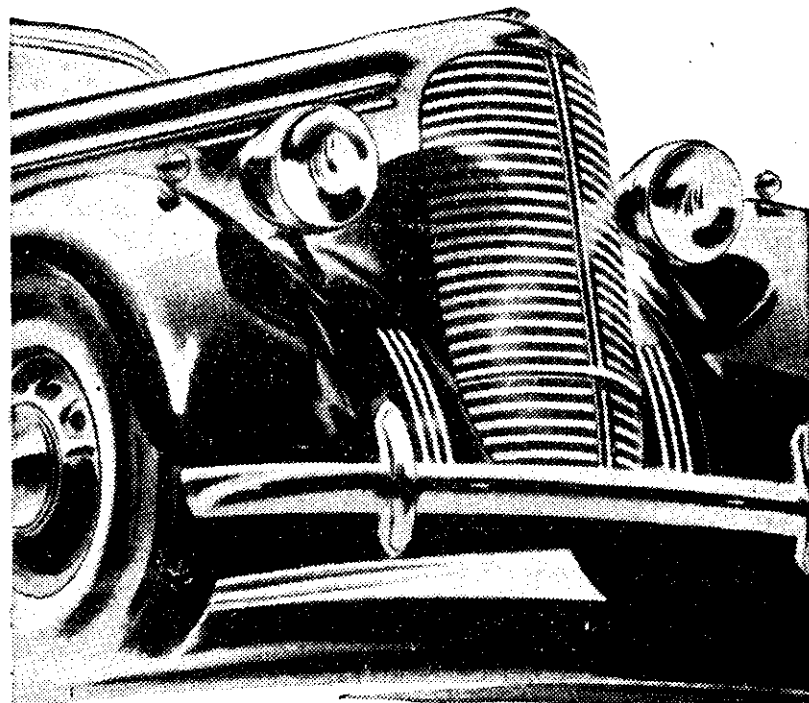
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TO the average radio listener outside Nelson Station 2YN is no more than a name appearing regularly in our programme section and occasionally in our news columns. And though it certainly cannot be said that the average radio listener inside Nelson is correspondingly ignorant about such stations as 2YA, 2ZB or 3YA, it is nevertheless true that Nelson is, from the radio viewpoint, a rather isolated and self-contained community. Its own station, 2YN, is too weak in power to cover even the whole of the surrounding country area (for example, Motueka), though it is hoped to remedy this now that the war is over and more equipment is likely to be available. And, on the other hand, we are told that Nelson's geographical situation makes it difficult to guarantee that Nelson listeners will have an entirely static-free evening when they tune in to outside stations.

Accordingly, Nelsonians are beginning to regard their station with a sort of parochial pride. Naturally the programmes broadcast consist primarily of recordings (as, indeed, is the case at other stations), and 2YN has a library of 13,000. But Messrs. Lawrence and Newman are doing what they can to popularise the station by increasing the number of special "local interest" broadcasts and relays. At the end of last year, for example, 2YN relayed a Nelson College service at the Cathedral, and a number of concerts, including a two and a-half hour local performance of *Messiah*. A local sports session is also proving popular; a review of past and coming events is broadcast on Wednesday evenings by the commentator, and results are given on Saturday evenings.

ON his way to Germany for the first time in 12 years on a five-day tour, Yehudi Menuhin said: "I will play in the former concentration camp where my people have suffered. The people have been starved of music too."

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