

understand what it all means, but your Daddy is a wise daddy. He is looking ahead . . . years ahead . . . to the day when you are 21 years old.

It's then that you will realise just

how wise and thoughtful your father has been. That insurance money will give you a marvellous start off in your life as a man. You'll certainly say...'Thanks a million dad, it's wonderful.'"

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A MESSAGE FROM THE LIFE ASSURANCE OFFICES IN NEW ZEALAND

25.6



Two Blithe Spirits

"Topper" from the ZB's

HE most petulant poltergeist unearthed by Britain's psychic investigator, Harry Price, did nothing much more phenomenal than throw things about, and apparently without much rhyme or reason. But the two jovial yet ghostly characters created by the farcical novelist, Thorne Smith, created situations which made thousands laugh at the book, at the film, and at the American radio adaptation of Topper. And Marion and George Kerby, it will be remembered, went in for wholesale mischief according to a set plan-their main object was to discomfit the Toppers as



"Just the right amount of sophistication"

often, and as much as possible. Now they are floating about in the NZBS ether.

When Bernard Beeby, producer for the NZBS Production Studios, received an American script, as used by the film actor Roland Young, on the screen and in the American radio network, he found that it could easily be adapted for New Zealand consumption. When it came to casting, he chose his players with the idea of securing the maximum amount of comedy, and as even what are termed the "hard" characters have some fun in their lines, few alterations in the script were necessary. The main parts were given an atmosphere acceptable to New Zealand listeners, but certain smaller characters, such as Heliotrope, the coloured maid, were retained in their original form.

Mouse and Man

For Topper somebody had to create a mousey type, inordinately proud of the fact that a most attractive female ghost found his company interesting, especially when her spirit husband was wandering about in some other-dimensional plane. Then, to contrast with Topper, there had to be the voice of his wife, containing a domineering, possessive tone. Marion Kerby had to make mischief sparkle through her voice and possess just the right amount of sophistication to allure Topper. To take the part of George Kerby, Marion's spirit husband, someone who could portray light-hearted animal exuberance was required.

"We had lots of fun doing this show,"
Mr. Beeby said. "Everybody quickly
caught the spirit of the play. The effects
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