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SUCCESS STORY

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publication. She has sold a number of serials and stories, some written in collaboration with her husband, to the NZBS. The titles of some of them are: "The Weather Horse," "Alice Stay-at-Home," "The Castaways of Fire Reef," and "The Fallen Star." None of these has yet been recorded, but two of her serials, "Bufinello" and "Peter Puffington" will be familiar to NZBS child-listeners. These two serials are shortly to be published in book form in America.

Radio short stories and dramatized stories are another of her specialties; in fact she says she is happiest writing for radio. Her range is so wide as to be astonishing. She writes for school broadcasts in New Zealand and for school journals; she recently collaborated with her husband on a musical comedy for the NZBS, and for South Africa she writes mostly librettos and rhyming pantomimes.

The young authoress returned to New Zealand with her husband early last year for what she called "a long delayed honeymoon," bringing their two children. She was not well—in fact all her life she has been dogged by ill-health—but by May she had started to plan her novel for the *Sydney Morning Herald* prize. She wanted to write up her slum experiences, and said "I can always see things with a clearer eye when I am away from them."

Although she had many distractions and interruptions, she managed to complete *The Harp in the South*, as she called her novel, in time, taking in all only about five weeks over the actual writing. Fairly exhausted, she set off with her husband on a tour of New Zealand that led them down as far as Queenstown, all the time fossicking out material for new stories. At Wellington they called in at the studios of the NZBS, and to Ruth's delight happened to meet Norman Corwin, whom she says she regards in the same light as the bobby-soxer does Frank Sinatra. She also has great admiration for Bernard Beeby, chief producer of the NZBS, whose standard of productions she considered surpassed Australia's in many points.

In November the couple left their children temporarily with Ruth's parents in Auckland and returned to Sydney. Sudden fame was awaiting Ruth Park there, but she had earned it by the hard and rough road of experience. She has "been through the mill" to a remarkable extent for one not yet turned 30. Already *The Harp in the South* is being sought after by film companies. If it proves an outstanding contribution to Australian literature, it is to be hoped that her new novel about her own country may prove an equal success.

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