

## Wakamarina Gold

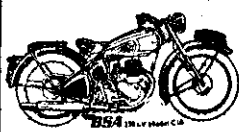
WAKAMARINA Valley is somewhere in the mountains between Nelson and Marlborough, but it's so small it isn't marked on the map, says Mrs. A. V. Nelson in one of her two talks from 2YA on *Gold-Mining in the Wakamarina*. Nevertheless, the valley was an important prospecting area in the pioneer days, when 3,000 miners were working there and nearly a million ounces of gold were taken out. Prospectors used to dig into the mountainsides looking for reefs, but most of the gold found was alluvial. The method of working the river flats was to pack the stones to one side and then wait for a flood to wash the smaller stuff away, leaving the gold exposed. Some strange tales are told about the motley crowd of prospectors who once lived in their tents in that 10-mile stretch of river. There were men who had run away from their wives, remittance blokes, waifs and strays from Australia, and so on. And about five men from this gold-field were shot by bushrangers in the notorious Maungatapu murders. Wakamarina had a new lease of life when a settlement was established there during the depression, but the gold is harder to find now, and returns are small. Mrs. Nelson's first talk will be broadcast at 10.25 a.m. on Friday, February 6.

### LOOKING BACK ON RADIO

In the commemorative programmes to celebrate the BBC's Silver Jubilee which took place during the autumn, one of the most interesting people of all was H. A. Hankey, who took part in the magazine programme "In Town Tonight." He was in radio before broadcasting began and though the BBC started officially as the British Broadcasting Company on November 14, 1922, Mr. Hankey was, as he said, "up to his ears" in it in 1906. He recalled one of his first jobs "at the building of a station at Cullercoats at the mouth of the Tyne for signalling to ships, and later on I was in charge of a private cinema at the top of Marconi House... the place where British broadcasting was born." The cinema, he explained, was where he used to show visitors from all over the wireless world pictures of radio equipment.

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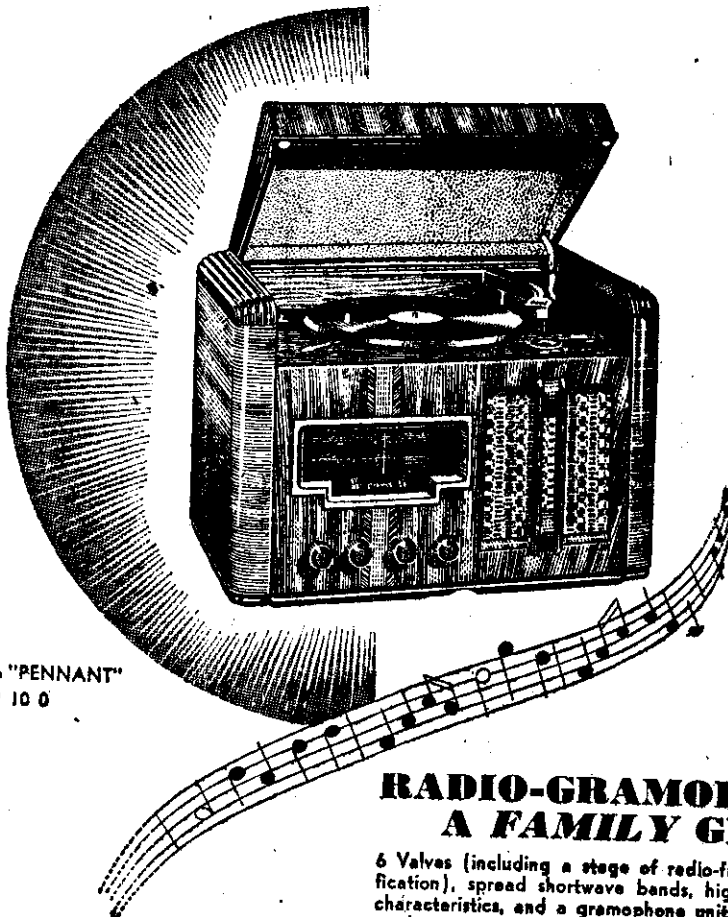
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