

The Old-Timer Looks Back

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THE dancing girls didn't impress mother favourably—she always felt that even now there might be some illicit fascination in them.

"You know that woman, Miss Lindemann, who used to teach music, Dad. Her mother was a dancing girl." There would be unkind implications in mother's voice—after all her mother had possessed the refinement to be reared in the atmosphere of an English parsonage. "That Mrs. Withers, too—although you'd never think it now, she's such a snob. Her mother came from the dance hall at No Town." That the daughter of a former dancing girl could hold herself so high was a permanent slight to the parsonage education which mother felt rather deeply.

"Most of them were quite all right," father would reply, swinging the slasher. "They made damn good wives for the diggers, too." Father felt that any slur on the dancing girls was a slur on his birthplace.

"How do you know?" mother would counter. "You were only about 10 at the time."

Father would bluster for a bit and then relapse into silence. On we would go. On and on and on.

Finally we would become impatient and suspicious.

"Haven't we come to it yet?" we would chorus fretfully.

"The Palais de Venice?" Dad would pause to nick off the top of a promising young rimu sapling with the slasher. "Oh—we passed that about a quarter of a mile back. There wasn't anything left to see so I thought I'd go on for a bit—you never know what you'll find about these old places."

FOR us that was the finish. We would heap reproaches on father. Then mother would say that it was about time we were getting back any car, and we would begin to retrace our steps.

As soon as we knew that we were on the way home our spirits began to soar. Happily we quickened our steps towards the car.

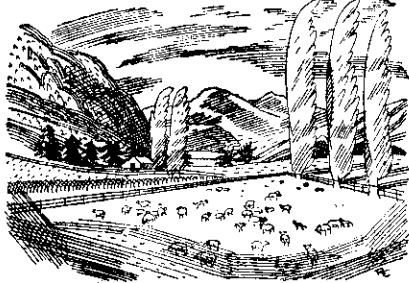
But not so father. He would be glumly bringing up the rear, too depressed even for any fancy work with the slasher. The past had come down over him like a cloud. While mother organised the rest of us into a work party preparing for the homeward journey, father would sit silently in the

driver's seat of the car. Then as we all climbed in he would say to mother, accusingly: "You shouldn't come back, Ellen. You shouldn't come back to these old places. It brings back too many memories. It's no good..." With a reckless lurch we would start for home.

"I expect I'm about the only one left out of that old place now, Ellen. The only one... All the others'll be gone. Makes you realise how time passes. And I don't suppose I'll be long following them, either, with this heart of mine..." Taking one hand from the wheel father would gloomily pat his waistcoat while the car wobbled about.

"Oh—go on, Dad," Mother would say brightly. "What nonsense—your heart's quite all right. It's just your imagination." While we would be chattering like a couple of jays in the back seat... But dad would not be comforted. Not until we began passing the patches of blackened scrub that he had fired on the way out.

"Not a bad burn, that," he would observe, a note of pride in his voice. "Not bad at all..." He would brighten up a little then.



SHORTWAVE HIGHLIGHTS

LISTENERS interested in hearing the actual proceedings of the UN General Assembly, which will conclude its session at the Palais Chaillot, Paris, on Wednesday of next week, December 8, can tune in to these UN actuality broadcasts on the shortwave band each evening except Monday. The direct broadcast of the proceedings is accompanied by a running commentary in both English and French.

Between 9.30 p.m. and 12.45 a.m. (New Zealand time) the forenoon sessions are heard on 15.291 mc/s., 19.61 metres; and 6.09 mc/s., 49.26 metres. Afternoon sessions of the Assembly are to be heard on the following frequencies and wavelengths between 2.0 a.m. and 6.45 a.m.: 7.28 mc/s., 41.21 metres; 15.24, 19.68; 15.295, 19.61; 17.76, 16.90.

Broadcasts to the Pacific Area are also made through the "Voice of America" Service, over stations on the West Coast of America and in Manila: KNBA (6.06 mc/s., 49.50 metres), KNBI (9.65, 31.09), KNBX (11.79, 25.45), KCBR (15.13, 19.83), Manila (15.33, 19.57).

At 7.30 p.m. a five-minute bulletin of UN news headlines is heard, followed by 15 minutes of foreign language news, opening again in English at 7.50 p.m. for the news in full. "United Nations To-day" is a feature programme broadcast at 8.0 p.m.

Canada

Every Sunday night at 8.45 the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation stations situated at Sackville, New Brunswick, broadcast a programme to Australia and New Zealand and are being heard at good strength at present. The stations are CHOL (11.72 mc/s., 25.60 metres), and CHLS (9.61, 31.32).

The programme opens with "Listeners' Corner," in which listeners' letters are answered, followed at 9.0 p.m. by the News. "Canadian Chronicle" is heard at 9.15 p.m. and a feature entitled "Prairie Schooner" is broadcast at 9.30 p.m. "Cross Section" is heard at 9.45 p.m., followed by "Stories of Yesterday and To-day" at 10.0 p.m. and "Eye-witness Account" at 10.15 p.m.

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