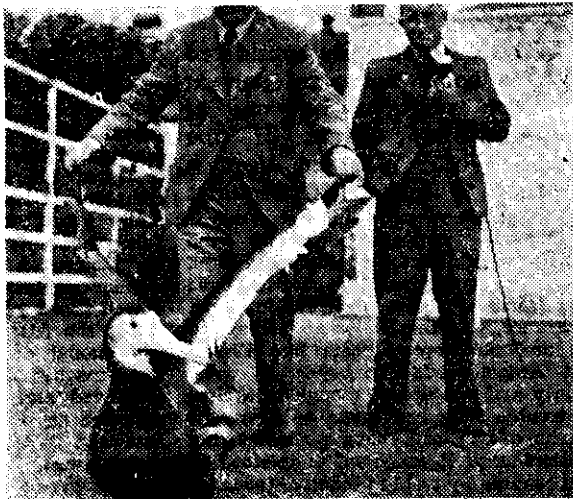


INTERVIEW WITH AN ALBATROSS

SPECIMENS of albatross, the legendary bird of Coleridge's *Ancient Mariner*, are not seen every day in New Zealand, so when the manager of Station 4YZ Invercargill heard that one had

been found near by, he acted quickly. He got in touch with the Rt. Rev. C. J. Tocker, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, and a keen naturalist, who went out to the coast near Dacre where the bird was stranded, and brought it to town in the back seat of his car. Later he took it round to 4YZ, where an interview was broadcast in which the bird was described, its habits detailed, and so on. When this had been done he took it to Bluff, where it was liberated and flew quickly out to sea.



The accompanying photograph shows Mr. Tocker holding the albatross outside 4YZ while the interview is being recorded. This specimen is believed to be an immature member of the wandering albatross family (*diomedea exulans*), the most commonly known variety, which lives in the Pacific. The albatross is the largest sea bird when fully grown, attaining a length of four

NEVIS HILL TOP— CENTRAL OTAGO

*THE wind makes a snake of the snow-grass,
gliding across the hills to the feet of the
stones*

*that stand like birds,
or men,
or neolithic monuments,
or beak-billed gods
long raised by those long dead
to dare, ageless and eyeless,
over the gullies and the silences.*

*ALL that is said or told
falls limp against the granite.
Thought is a mist which dissipates in cloud, and
inspiration becomes the last remnant of a spirit
loath to accept finality,
and yet incompetent
to add to that already here.*

—Isobel Andrews

feet, a weight of 25 pounds, and the unique wing-spread of 17 feet. It is remarkable for its soaring flight, and feeds upon fish and offal. Often when it is gorged it may be unable to fly. Both sexes are white, streaked with dark bands on the back and with dark wings. The bird lays one white egg, about four inches long, on the ground, and the species is noted for the birds' unusual joint courtship dance.

NATIONAL FILM UNIT

IN "Natural Heat," an item in Weekly Review No. 392, the National Film Unit shows how the proposed scheme to use the thermal regions of Rotorua for household purposes is to be worked. "Seed for Overseas," showing the harvesting in South Canterbury of one of New Zealand's big exports, and the opening of North Taita's Self Service Store, complete the reel.

NEW ZEALAND LISTENER, MARCH 11

Altogether about 20 types of albatross are known, the black-footed albatross and short-tailed albatross being found in the North Pacific from California to Alaska. The yellow-nosed albatross and the sooty albatross, of related species, are casual visitors found as far north as the state of Oregon in the United States.



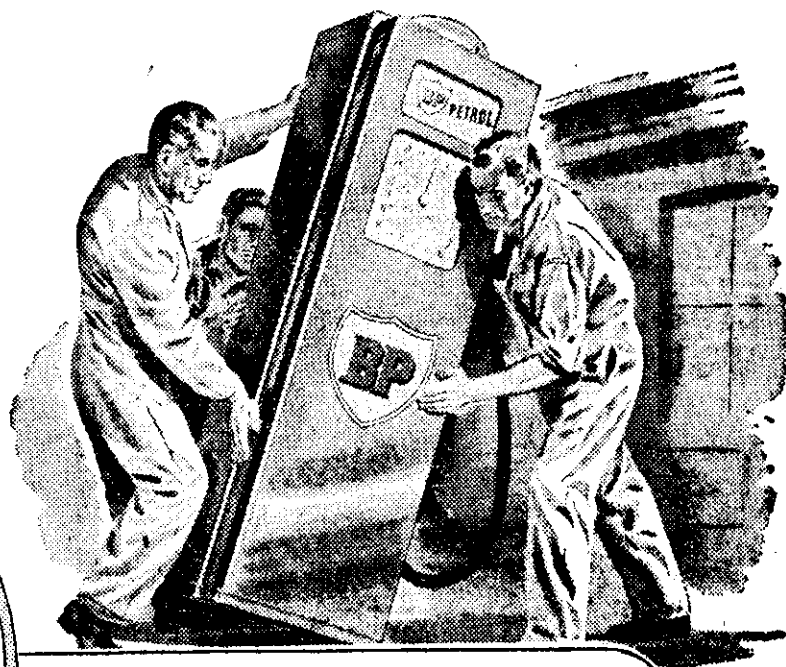
"Human nature's
a funny thing"

—says Mrs. Rawlins

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