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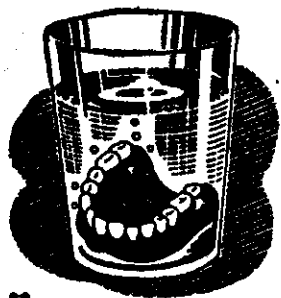
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# HAMILTON COMES ON THE AIR

*Official Opening on July 2*

**W**HEN 1XH Hamilton goes on the air for the first time at 8.0 p.m. on Saturday, July 2, the station will be officially opened by the Hon. F. Jones, Minister of Broadcasting. Following the Minister, the Director of Broadcasting will introduce local dignitaries representing the area within a 30-to-40-mile radius of Hamilton which the station is designed to serve. The opening speeches will be followed by a studio concert featuring the Hamilton Caledonian Society's Pipe Band, the Hamilton Citizens' Band, and *Waikato Presents*, a variety show by local artists. The broadcast will conclude with the first of a new series of the popular BBC variety programme, *Much-Binding-in-the-Marsh*.

Like its prototype 3XC Timaru, Station 1XH is intended to be a radio community centre for the closely-populated rural district in which it is centred, and the programmes will be partly commercial. In terms of broadcasting time, this means that commercial programmes will be on the air from 7.0 a.m. to 10.0 a.m. and from 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. on week-days, while non-commercial programmes will be heard from 7.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. on week-days, and all the time on Sundays. The Station Manager, C. I. B. Watkins, has had wide experi-

ence in both National and Commercial branches of the NZBS, including service at 2XN, 2ZA, and 2ZB.

News that the management and staff of the Much-Binding Country Club are back on the air in a third series of BBC Transcription Service recordings should be well received by listeners to 1XH, where the new programmes will have their premiere at 10.0 p.m. on opening night. From what we've heard of these recordings the incorrigible quartet of Murdoch, Horne, Costa, and Denham are this time in better form than ever, and their particular brand of humour—"easy, unforced humour," as they call it—seems to be making their show one of the most popular on the air.

One thing about *Much-Binding* that appears to have puzzled members of the post-war generation, however, is the exact meaning of the words in the title. The clue lies in the fact that the principal members of the cast served in the R.A.F. during the war. All of them were therefore familiar with that most commonly heard slang word of the air force, *to bind*, for like *boob*, *black*, *prang*, and *prune*, it was a familiar sound on the lips of disgruntled men during the years 1939-45.

Perhaps it isn't very strange that wars should produce numbers of new slang expressions, and as every ex-serviceman knows, the army and navy had some

(continued on next page)

## AUCKLAND STRING PLAYERS

**I**N the field of music the string orchestra occupies a central position. It can possess both subtlety and power; and it can appeal to a large audience without sacrifice of the finer qualities of musical expression. It is good, therefore, to see that there is in New Zealand a definite trend towards the establishment of string orchestras in the larger centres of population.

Auckland had, for some years, an orchestra that played at lunch-hour concerts. For several reasons, which were the fault of nobody, it withered away. Last year an attempt was made to revive it. Several players got together and invited Georg Tintner, conductor of the Auckland Choral Society, to take a leading part in re-establishing it. He in turn found willing support among musicians of Auckland. The result was that last year an orchestra of over 20 players was got together, and began practising. The whole of the year was spent in rehearsing, in order to achieve a good standard of performance. And now, in 1949, the Auckland String Players have appeared before the public, and have established themselves strongly. Their first public performance was made at a concert organised by the Auckland Chamber Music Society; and soon afterwards they broadcast a programme from 1YA. The second broad-

cast by this new group will be given on Saturday, July 9, again from 1YA. The programme will consist of two Mozart works — *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* and "Five Dances."

The orchestra consists of seven first violins, seven second violins, four violas, three cellos, and a double bass. Although some of its members are professional musicians, the orchestra is on an amateur basis: all fees are paid in to a fund that is used to buy sheet music, pay travelling expenses, and meet rent and other charges.

With Georg Tintner as its conductor and Ina Bosworth as leader, the Auckland String Players have made remarkable progress. The success of the Boyd

Neel Orchestra demonstrated the fact that there is a large and appreciative public for good music of this kind, and it seems possible that this new orchestra will become a permanent institution in Auckland. Already it is receiving more invitations to play than it can cope with, and a concert is to be given at Hamilton shortly. The Auckland String Players intend to respect the conventions of music. There will be no *ad hoc* "arranging" of music that was written for other combinations — no "arrangement for string orchestra" of a symphony, for instance.

—A.R.D.F.