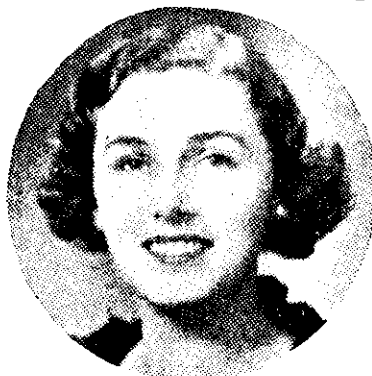


Meet the LADIES



WITHOUT personalities, radio would not be much more than a community gramophone: without "Suzette," Palmerston North's 2ZA would be proportionately less popular. Suzette is the microphone name of Mavis Mortland, who, radio or no radio, would still be a personality.

Mavis Mortland was born in North Canterbury, but has lived most of her life in Palmerston North.

For the Manawatu Repertory Society she has taken leading parts and has been honorary secretary for two years; other times wardrobe mistress and stage decorator. Another of Miss Mortland's interests is the Palmerston North Operatic and Dramatic Society.

In Wellington, where she lived for a year, Miss Mortland was secretary of the Thespians, made records of announcements for commercial purposes, and took parts in dramas and comedies at 2YA and 2YC.

Among activities of which she is very fond, Miss Mortland lists golf, her radio work, and acting.

BIG BEN LOOKS DOWN

IF only Big Ben could talk! What history the great clock high above the grey pile of the House of Parliament in London could tell. The 14-ton hour-bell of the Westminster clock has become the symbol of British broadcasting.

This Christmas just past, the National Commercial Broadcasting Service presented a special programme — a cavalcade of the years during which Big Ben has marked the hours with its tolling. Devised and produced by L. E. Strachan, of the Service, the programme leapt over the first 40 years of Big Ben's existence (the giant bell struck for the first time in July, 1859) and opened in the last year of the Naughty 'Nineties.

Then on May 18, 1900, Big Ben looked down upon a London gone mad: a little town called Mafeking, in far off South Africa had been relieved. In 1902 came regal pageantry, when Edward the Seventh was crowned. The day of the motor-car drew nearer. Edwardians danced the Lancers, quadrilles and waltzes. In 1912, ragtime invaded London. The Titanic sank. Captain Scott died. The war years followed and disease. War was the word on everyone's lips. And the newsboys shouted names . . . Lusitania . . . Gallipoli . . . Lord Kitchener . . . Lenin . . . Allenby . . . casualty lists. . .

November 11, 1918, and London again went mad. The Armistice had been signed.

And in 1923 our present King and Queen were married in Westminster Abbey. London danced to the tunes of the new Jazz age.

In 1923, Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany. In 1935 came the

silver jubilee of King George V., and in January of the next year, the voice of the BBC announcer was heard saying, "The King's life is moving peacefully to a close . . ."

Then Edward VIII. abdicated and another George ascended the throne.

Soon came the 1938 September crisis. After that—no peace in our time, but, in 1939, the shadow of the swastika.



L. E. STRACHAN . . . his was a mighty cavalcade

In March—Slovakia, Bohemia, Moravia, Memel. July—Danzig. September—Poland!

And still the unchanged tolling of Big Ben echoes through an Empire once more at war.

Wellington's Farewell to the Everybodies

WELLINGTON certainly knows how to do it. And when it said "farewell" to "Fred and Maggie Everybody" and little "Daisy Sproggins"—famous radio personalities—Wellington surpassed itself.

Fred, Maggie and Daisy (in private life Mr. and Mrs. Howell and daughter Madeleine) appeared at the Majestic Theatre at a concert in aid of the Air Force Relations Committee—their last public appearance in Wellington—and nothing would satisfy "Everybody" fans (who seem literally to be everybody) than to give the popular team a royal send-off. They certainly got it.

From Courtenay Place to the Majestic Theatre they lined the streets footpath deep — and that's a crowd. The Royal New Zealand Air Force Band (in the charge of the Band Adjutant, Flying-Officer T. Kirk-Burnand, in the absence of Squadron-Leader B. T. Sheil) led the parade.

The concert netted £117/18/4.

During the evening Fred and Maggie handed over to the Controller of Commercial Broadcasting a cheque representing their fees for appearances at theatres controlled by the Fuller Theatre Corporation Ltd., J. C. Williamson Picture Theatre Corporation, N.Z. Theatres Ltd., and Christchurch Cinemas Ltd. There was tremendous applause when Fred asked Uncle Scrim to nominate a charity to which the cheque could be devoted. Uncle Scrim selected the New Zealand Health Camps, expressing his appreciation of this generous gesture.

The programme, which was arranged by Reg. Morgan, was broadcast by station 2ZB and relayed to 2ZA.

AT THE EXHIBITION: Fred and Maggie are welcomed by a huge crowd

