

# Meet the LADIES



"GAY" is a happy sort of word, and "Lady Gay," of the Commercial Service, is a happy sort of person. All the best people in the entertainment world have *nom-de-plumes* of course, and "Lady Gay" was formerly known professionally as Miss Muriel Johns. Born in Brighton, England, she came to New Zealand at an early age, and was educated in Christchurch. At Christchurch's Sacred Heart Convent she studied the piano. Singing, she studied under Madame Audibert. Hard work at her music brought her many prizes in com-

## MAKING HISTORY OUT OF HISTORY

ZB Stations Relay Treaty of Waitangi Centennial Celebrations

BY the time this is read, broadcasting history will have been made in New Zealand, appropriately on the same spot and at the same time that New Zealand's history as a nation really began.

petitions for piano and singing, including the Alice Gunner Memorial Gold Medal.

She could probably write an interesting volume on radio history in this country, for her first presentations over the air were in 1924, when broadcasting was in its infancy; before the YA stations came into being. She remembers the air of adventure that surrounded radio in those days, when delightfully informal broadcasts were made under difficult and primitive conditions.

Later with her sister, she entertained from 3YA, and was a member of the "Happiness Trio" and "Revellers" Company in sketches, part-songs, piano and instrumental items.

After engagements at 2YA, she first broadcast over 2ZB in 1937, and in 1938, as "Lady Gay," introduced the "Young New Zealand Radio Journal" to that station. Later she began the "Sunbeams' Club," which has a membership of over 7000 children.

For a little gentle relaxation, she advocates gardening.

The occasion, of course was the Centennial celebrations on February 6, in connection with the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, when arrangements were made for the proceedings at Waitangi, in the Bay of Islands, to be relayed through the whole ZB network.

In deciding to make the broadcast the Commercial Broadcasting Service was impressed by the growing public interest in the historic ceremonies: at Waitangi on that date, and, despite the technical difficulties in the way, it was felt that the effort would, from the public point of view, be thoroughly worth while.

Waitangi itself is an isolated spot on the far side of the Bay of Islands opposite to Russell (formerly known as Kororareka), and one of the chief problems was that of relaying the proceedings from this point to Auckland and 1ZB, from where the broadcast could be relayed by land line to the ZB network and re-broadcast throughout New Zealand. Eventually it was decided that the most satisfactory method of bridging the gap between Waitangi and Auckland would be by short-wave, and for this purpose the 2ZB sound truck was pressed into service.

It was arranged that a short-wave transmitter would broadcast the relay

from the scene of the celebrations. This broadcast was to be picked up in Auckland, re-broadcast by 1ZB, and relayed by land line to the other ZB stations throughout New Zealand, and so brought to listeners in every part of the Dominion.

The 2ZB sound truck, a familiar sight around Wellington, and particularly at the Centennial Exhibition, where many unusual relays have been carried out, travelled from Wellington to Waitangi a few days before the broadcast was due, arousing great interest en route. The schedule was as follows: Leave Wellington on Tuesday, January 30; at Palmerston North that night, where a special broadcast was made from 2ZA; then on to Wanganui, Hawera, and New Plymouth; finally stopping the night at Te Kuiti. On February 1, the next day, the sound truck left for Auckland via Hamilton, Huntly, and Mercer, arriving at Auckland later in the afternoon. After a stop at Auckland for technical adjustments and final arrangements for the broadcast, the sound truck went on to Waitangi.

The broadcast was supervised by K. W. Kilpatrick, national programme director, with Kingi Tahiwai (2ZB), Lou Paul (1ZB), and Ari Pitama (3ZB), and Engineer Illingworth (1ZB), attending to the technical details.

Incidentally, the party tasted something of the joys of camping life, sleeping in tents beside the sound truck.

OUT of the hearts of its people . . . a great director creates his most stirring human spectacle of the laughter . . . the love . . . the pain . . . and the joy of the everyday business of living! Stirring in the seeing! Precious . . . in the remembering! Enacted by one of the most perfect casts ever assembled in one picture!

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# MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON

Jean ARTHUR

Co-starring

James STEWART

With Claude Rains

Edward Arnold

Guy Kibbee

Thomas Mitchell

Beulah Bondi

"A" Certificate

AUCKLAND — PLAZA — February 9th.

WELLINGTON — KING'S — March 2nd.

A Columbia Picture  
OTHER TOWNS TO FOLLOW.

