

RINGING THE BELL WITH A SIGNATURE

Don ("Charley's Aunt") Nicol As A Caricaturist



ADORNING the walls back stage, and in the dressing rooms of most theatres, lightning sketches tell of actors' impressions of acquaintances on the tours.

In many instances these clever caricatures are worthy of more prominent display where they could be admired by many apart from the comparatively few who are privileged to view them in odd corners of the theatre.

In common with many other actors, Don ("Charley's Aunt") Nicol's artistic achievements embrace the power of expression with artists' crayon and brushes. In contrast, however, to many in his profession, Don puts this gift to more serious purpose.

In Christchurch there is a child's bedroom decorated artistically from floor to ceiling with wall paintings done by Don to amuse a sick little girl.

As a memento of happy associations on his tour this versatile artist may draw for his special friends a kindly caricature which recalls for them some happy event, as in the accompanying lightning sketch of Harry Bell, Station Director of 3ZB, portraying the pleasant association with the station in broadcasts by the company and in a little week-end relaxation on the links with (to use Don's own expression) "Close-to-the-flag Harry." Quite a clever little sketch, even if the main likeness to the subject is the signature around which the whole sketch is drawn.

5ZB CLAIMS RELAY RECORD

RECENTLY 5ZB, the Exhibition Station, spent a very hectic 24 hours and claims to have broken all records for outside relays. The period of 24 hours began with Mac writing copy for six commercial recordings, and supervising their cutting in the city. Then back to the Exhibition where the relay equipment received an airing in Playland. Six fifteen-minute relays were recorded for playing over the ZB network.

There is quite a story attached to this also. These records were actually relayed through two ZB station (2ZB and 5ZB) before being recorded in the recording studios in the city. At the conclusion of each relay the relay equipment would be shifted and set up in another part of Playland, tests taken and then another relay under way. This procedure continued for six relays.

As an interlude, 5ZB then journeyed to the Miniature Theatre and relayed a session from there, through 5ZB to 2ZB, where it was broadcast and picked up at the recording studio for recording.

Then followed a visit from G. H. Mackley, former manager of the N.Z. Railways, who initiated a ZB network relay and addressed his fellow workers for the last time as General Manager. Uncle Scrim also took part in the relay. When that finished the relay gear went in to a particular exhibit where a further

3ZB'S BANDSMEN BROADCAST

Listeners Treated To Fine Entertainment

DAVID COMBRIDGE of 3ZB, in addition to being a recognised authority on horticulture, is also a keen and energetic practical gardener in his spare time. But whenever there is anything of special importance taking place in the brass or pipe band world, David puts away his garden tools and for the time being calls a truce in his perpetual war against a myriad of insect pests.

Through his association with the 3ZB band session, which has long been an institution on the Sunday morning programme, David has become a familiar figure in band

circles, and his regular visits to the practice rooms of the local bands have made him personally acquainted with most of the bandsmen in Christchurch.

As a preliminary to the band festival at Lancaster Park on Sunday, February 4, arranged in connection with the first public appearance of the newly formed Burnham Camp Band, David was able to bring to the 3ZB studio well-known bandsmen who broadcast three times daily throughout the week prior to the festival.

In addition to creating exceptional interest in the band festival, these solos, duets and quartets by members of the participating bands represented some of the finest available talent in New Zealand—and talent which is heard in individual performances only too rarely.

Christchurch is rightly proud of the achievements of its bandsmen, and the series of broadcasts leading up to the festival was followed with interest and much enjoyment by listeners to 3ZB.

relay was taken. When this finished Mac felt he had performed noble work and returned to 5ZB to read the evening paper. He had no sooner taken up his paper than a voice floated in from the open window. "My word some people have an easy job. There's a man reading the paper. . ." Mac didn't say a word—at least nothing that was audible.

The number of relays taken in the 24 hours period, excluding commercial recordings, was nine. Can any station beat that?

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