

Meet the LADIES



ALTHOUGH there is no radio artist better known, there is probably none less publicised than Aunt Daisy. She needs no advertisements other than those which her remarkable talents give her. The majority of listeners do not even know her proper name—Mrs. F. Basham.

Those whose duty takes them among the people of 2ZB know her as an intensely vital woman with a personality as piquant and charming as it is refreshing. This, then, is simply a brief biography of a woman whose chatter on the air is so vital, amusing and human that, though you may not know her name, or even her face, you feel that she is numbered among your friends.

A Londoner, and proud of it, she is descended from a very well-known English family noted on the father's side for its prominence in the profession of architecture, and on the mother's side for an equal prominence in law.

After the death of her father, she and her two sisters, while still children, were brought by their mother to New Zealand, the family settling at New Plymouth. Daisy received her early education at the New Plymouth High School, where the winning of every scholarship for which she was eligible secured her easy entrance to the teaching profession as a pupil teacher at the Central School, under Hector Dempsey, who afterwards became one of the Dominion's best-known Education Board inspectors. She quickly graduated out of pupil teacher class, going on to accept higher responsibility for several years in various parts of the Taranaki province.

At this time, as Miss Daisy Taylor, she first achieved popularity and recognition as an unusually gifted contralto, as the result of an inherited love of the best music, assisted by an intensive training in singing and voice production.

She later married Fred Basham, engineer to the Hawera County Council, and later to the Eltham, Patangata and Hauraki Plains County Councils. Mr.

Basham was a pioneer of modern sealed roads in New Zealand.

Aunt Daisy was first attracted to radio in the old 1YA days, which was then, with the other YA stations, under the control of the Radio Broadcasting Co., Ltd. Her first appearance before the microphone was as a partner in vocal duos and trios. She later relieved in the Children's Hour at 1YA with such success that she was officially given charge of a special children's session at 2YA Wellington. Also, at 1YA, she gave lecture recitals on the lives of famous composers, these being very ably illustrated vocally and musically by the late Barry Coney and Cyril Towsey.

Her staff appointment at 2YA, in between looking after the requirements of her "Cheerful Chirpers" in the Children's Hour, necessitated the arranging of classical programmes and recorded music. The purchase by the then Government of the YA stations left her without a microphone, and it was from her entry to the B stations at this time that her great success began. Those were the days when the staff of 1ZR consisted wholly of Uncle Scrim (C. G. Scrimgeour, now Controller of the NCBS), Uncle Tom (T. Garland), Dudley Wrathall, and Aunt Daisy. Those were care-free days, when "everybody made their own arrangements" and, as often as not, had to make hurried excursions into other rooms for something to keep the station alive, when the record on the air at the moment had less than half a minute to run.

In no time at all, or so it seemed, Aunt Daisy built up a big block of listeners. This was a very real asset to Station 1ZB when it came into being after the purchase by the Government of 1ZR. In 1935 she spent a well-earned holiday in Honolulu and America.

She has a grown-up family of two sons and one daughter, Barbara, whose voice is frequently heard "chipping in" with Aunt Daisy in her daily national broadcast, and who accompanied her mother in her tour of America and England in 1938. Aunt Daisy made successful broadcasts from KGU Honolulu, from the Columbia Station at San Francisco, and from KFI Los Angeles, as well as from three different Chicago Broadcasting Stations and for the NBC and the Columbia Networks in New York. In London and Glasgow she gave talks at the BBC, and also experienced the thrill of a televised interview by Jasmine Bligh at Alexandra Palace.

During her six months' absence from New Zealand, Aunt Daisy was still on the air every day from all ZB stations, by means of travel talks which she recorded in Honolulu, Hollywood, Chicago, New York, and London, and sent back to New Zealand.

It is scarcely surprising, therefore, that this very remarkable lady should have been the first radio celebrity to be regularly relayed over the whole of New Zealand from Wellington to Auckland, Christchurch, and Dunedin. Indeed, Aunt Daisy has often been described as "the greatest woman personality that New Zealand has attracted to radio."

(This concludes the series in which we have enabled you to "Meet the Ladies" of the ZB Stations. Hitherto they have been "just voices" to you, but we feel that having read about them you will have come to know them a little better, and that their broadcasts will now have a greater interest for you).

CENTENNIAL SCHOOLS' OUTING Ten Thousand Children And 4ZB

A MOST ambitious scheme was carried out at Wingatui on Tuesday, February 20, when the Centennial Schools' Outing proved an unprecedented success. It was attended by about 40,000 people.

Ten thousand school children were transported to Wingatui and entertained all day long by many artists, prominent among whom were such 4ZB personalities as Peter, Dennis Sheard, Airini, Alex McDowell, Don Donaldson, Bernie McConnell, Len Bates, Jack Bremner, Lionel Sceats, and several members of Brook's 4ZB Accordion Band.

The children simply flocked to wherever 4ZB were performing, and Peter in particular had a hard day's work, because wherever he went he was trailed by hundreds of children.

Beside the items from the stage, 4ZB presented what was considered by many the highlight of the day, in the form of a novelty bicycle race for the 4ZB Cycling Championship. Mounted on old-fashioned bicycles, tricycles, scooters and

tandems, the 4ZB team raced up the straight at Wingatui with 40,000 spectators laughing themselves hoarse. The commentary on the event was broadcast through the amplifier system on the ground and over 4ZB by Lionel Sceats. The winner of the race was Bernie McConnell, riding a bicycle with wheels 1ft. in diameter. The judge was "Whang" McKenzie, 4YA Sports Commentator, and he had little difficulty in picking the winner.

The colourful costumes of Peter, dressed as a toreador, and Bernie, as a Scotsman, created a great deal of attention, while Len Bates, as a schoolboy, was a "howling" success.

Broadcasts were relayed from Wingatui from time to time throughout the day, and listeners were given a first-hand account of the entertainment provided for the children.

At 7.15 in the evening, Arthur Barnett, Chairman of the Centennial Schools' Committee, and Stuart Cameron, Deputy-Chairman, thanked everybody over 4ZB for their help.

Concerts In Camp Entertainments Arranged By The ZB Service

SEVERAL concert parties have been formed by the ZB stations for the entertainment of the troops in camp. 1ZB, which has a considerable amount of talent on its staff, is the latest on the list. Several members of the station staff have already been out in private parties, and two of the women members have formed parties of their own.

Pat Boyle, who is well known both on the radio and the stage is one, and her party is one of the most popular to visit the camps. The other party was organised by Gay Newton, who, though not known on the air, is much in demand as a pianiste and accompanist. Other members of 1ZB's staff who are always welcome are John Gordon, Dudley Wrathall, Freddie Baird and Des. Lock, with several of the girls.

3ZB and 4ZB recently combined forces to entertain the troops at Burnham. The artists from 4ZB arrived in the late afternoon, and the combined party went on to the camp in the early evening, where they were enthusiastically received by the men. Songs, novelty items, and a small, specially trained ballet were among the items, and the

AUSTRALIAN VISITOR AT 1ZB

AUCKLAND was fortunate recently in receiving a visit from J. L. Cox, who achieved fame in Sydney as winner of the Radio Trials for 1939, conducted by Station 2KY Sydney.

Mr. Cox dropped into 1ZB to pay a courtesy visit, and explained that he was in New Zealand enjoying the holiday trip that he received as the first prize in the Radio Trials Competition. Station 1ZB immediately booked him for a series of broadcasts, the first of which was presented last Thursday night. He gave an excellent performance, revealing a rich baritone voice with a pleasing Irish accent.

Mr. Cox is so taken with New Zealand that he has half made up his mind to stay in the Dominion, and if he does listeners will no doubt be hearing more of him over the ZB stations.

audience gave proof that the work which had been put into organising the concert had not been in vain.

This is the first time that the two South Island Commercial Stations have combined in producing a combined concert party, but judging by results, it will not be the last.

Now Try this Amazing Liquid Healer for

ECZEMA



Thousands of sufferers who had long been tortured by Eczema, Pruritus, or other itching skin eruptions, have been completely healed by D.D.D. Prescription. A few drops stop the tormenting itch instantly. Healing begins at once, the desire to scratch disappears, discharge and scaling lessen, then stop, and the disfiguring eruption is replaced by new, healthy skin. D.D.D. Prescription never disappoints. Why suffer another hour? Get a bottle (2/-, 3/6 and 6/6) from your Chemist and begin your healing today!

A FEW DROPS STOP THE ITCHING INSTANTLY