

# UNITED AIR LINES OF AMERICA

## Representative Broadcasts From ZB Stations

**E** H. FORREST, recently appointed Traffic Manager of United Air Lines, in Australia and New Zealand, was recently introduced to listeners over the ZB stations, when he gave an interesting talk on air transportation in America.

Commercial aviation in America began by the transport of mail by air, in 1918, when the Post Office started an air line. They ran an air service from New York to Washington, D.C., and later this was extended to a mail service from coast to coast of the United States. This route was known as the mid-Continent-route, and was from New York, Chicago, Denver, Salt Lake City, to San Francisco.

United Air Lines route is at present from San Francisco, to Los Angeles, Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver, trans-Continental to join the main line to New York.

The air mail service from New York to San Francisco was operated by the Post Office until 1927, but as early as 1925 they began to consider placing the air traffic problems in the hands of commercial air line companies. The first private air mail company of America made its initial flight on April 6, 1926. To-day, Mr. Forrest explained, the distribution of mail is in the hands of 19 such companies, and the complete service extends all over the United States. United Air Lines alone flies 52,000 miles per day, or twice round the world!

To-day there are three trans-Continental Air Services across America. United Air Lines is the fastest and shortest air-

route, trans-Continental, and it has the distinction of flying the United States from border to border.



E. H. FORREST

"Passengers, in the early days, were of secondary importance," Mr. Forrest told listeners. "If they were too heavy for the 'plane (and there was only one passenger to each 'plane) the mail had to come first and the passenger was left. But to-day it is quite different. Over 2,000,000 people were air passengers in America in 1939."

Air liners in America offer every possible comfort to tourists to-day. The modern 21-passenger Douglas D.C.3 consists of a crew, captain, second officer, and stewardess; United Air Lines has a fleet of 52 of these machines.

There is a passenger salon which is 28 feet long, 8 feet wide, and 6½ feet

high in each airship. The cabins are scientifically soundproof, and air-conditioned. The same 'planes for night service are converted. The salons are turned into sleepers, with 12 upper and 12 lower berths, each berth 6½ feet long, and 30 inches wide. There is also a clubroom for those who do not want to sleep, where they may play cards, write letters and so forth. These sleeper 'planes are proving very popular, as half the scheduled flights in America are done at night, and nowadays only three-tenths of one per cent. of the travellers are subject to air-sickness.

Hot foods are served by United Air Lines, from their own kitchens. Commis-saries, and kitchens are stationed all along the routes, and hot food is put aboard the 'plane, and kept hot until meal time. It is then served to passengers on individual tables, covered with linen, set with real china, and a complete set of silver. Meals are all free, and there is no tipping permitted, making the fare all-inclusive.

"Some people are still of the opinion that the cost of air transportation is extremely high, but that is not so, considering the comfort in which one may travel, and the speed with which one arrives at one's destination," said Mr. Forrest. "Air transport is growing closer and closer to your door, and with the advent of the Tasman Empire Airway Service, from Auckland to Sydney, and from Auckland to San Francisco, by Pan-American Airways, New Zealand is within easy distance of the rest of the world."

## AUCKLAND CONTEST WINNER

**T**HE Auckland winner of the big ZB Apple Pie Contest is Mrs. Donald Rae of 705 New North Road, Mt. Albert.

The contest was held in the Auckland Town Hall on April 17 before an enthusiastic audience of nearly 3,000 people. Aunt Daisy, who visited each centre in connection with the contest, was welcomed by the Mayor of Auckland, Sir Ernest Davis, who in the course of his remarks confessed that he himself was very fond of apple pies. Amid loud applause Aunt Daisy led Mrs. Rae to the front of the platform, and announced her as the winner.

The contest was held in association with the weekly community sing, and a splendid programme was presented. Frank Broad was the song leader, and the various station personalities enlivened the proceedings by alternately conducting the singing.

The judges were: Mrs. Mann, chief demonstrator of the Auckland Gas Co., Auckland; Russell Windybank, chief of the Central Hotel, Auckland; J. E. Curran, head cook, W. R. Cooke & Sons Ltd., Queen Street, Auckland.

Prior to the announcement of the winner, Mrs. Mann, one of the judges, explained to the audience just how a decision was arrived at, and remarked on the general excellence of all the pies submitted for the contest.

## "BLUEY" HITS THE AIR

**A**N entirely new type of radio serial, "Bluey," is being released through the ZB stations. It is an Australian production and a good example of the high standard of radio production now being achieved in that country.

"Bluey," the story of a typical Australian boy, his family and his friends, is the culmination of five years of effort by that well-known author and actor, Ellis Price. The serial contains a wide range of adventures, romance, humour, and pathos.

Five years ago a considerable sum was spent on "Bluey," but Ellis Price was not satisfied that he had secured the cast he wanted. So he tried out hundreds of young artists until he found what he considered the perfect juvenile leads.

"Bluey" himself is Rodney Jacobs, and all who hear him as the lovable, mischievous, very human boy, will realise why I decided that he was one of the few juvenile personalities in Australia capable of creating the real Bluey," says Mr. Price.

"But there is a little lady in this serial who is going to prove something entirely new to radio listeners. She is the very young and very talented actress Joyce Williamson, who portrays Annabelle. Here we have an entirely distinct girl character, the perfect little gold-digger. Bluey, Skeeter, and the others,

are continually under her imperious sway, and Miss Williamson's extraordinary faculty of presenting her personality over the air has been a revelation to me and to all who have heard some of the transcriptions of the play."

Ellis Price was determined that these talented youngsters should have the best support available, and for Bluey's father (Henry Watson), he selected one of Australia's best known radio personalities, that accomplished actor, Jack Lumsdaine. The other characters—the Rector; Romeo (the Italian philosopher who owns the local refreshment stall), Skeeter (Bluey's loyal pal, who continually plays Dr. Watson to the hero's Sherlock Holmes), and all the rest, are artists who make a convincing and very real background to the youngsters' adventures. Ellis Price himself, besides directing the production, plays Romeo.

"Bluey" is in no sense a "kids' play." It is an intensely human picture of youngsters bent on pleasurable adventure, and grown-ups experiencing many moments of intense embarrassment and actual woe, as all parents at one time or another do.

Each episode has a distinct story, carrying the whole cast on to further adventures, and through all the laughable straightening out of the tangles the children cause, there is somewhere in the background that sense of relief, akin to tears, that all has ended for the best.

## Minute Facials



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