



NEWS FROM THE ZB STATIONS

SESSIONS come and sessions go, which is quite in the natural order of things as far as broadcasting is concerned, but there are a number of sessions that continue to hold a popularity that defies the passage of time or season. One of the real old-timers among 4ZB sessions is the weekly relay from the Town Hall Dance. Every Saturday night at 9.15, 4ZB passes over to the Main Town Hall where Joe Brown's popular Town Hall Dance is in full swing. To dancers and non-dancers, to city and country folk alike, these relays bring a bright and interesting programme of popular dance numbers, and there are many homes where the carpet is rolled back while the family and their friends trip the light fantastic to the music of Dick Colvin's Band. Acknowledged throughout the Dominion to be the largest regular dance held in New Zealand, the Town Hall Dance is certainly also one of the most enterprising. Not only does it boast one of the finest dance bands in the country, but no fewer than five vocalists, each a contest winner, contribute regularly to its programmes. 4ZB's connection with the band is of long standing. Broadcasts have been relayed from the Town Hall every Saturday night from the very early days of the station. Bernie McConnell was the first regular Town Hall Dance announcer; then Brian McCaw took over and carried on until his transfer to 3ZB. The present announcer to cover this assignment is 4ZB's Jimmie McFarlane who has been vocalist with the band ever since the dance was first inaugurated.

Incorrigible "Jerry"

Aunt Daisy was recently among the audience at a broadcast of "Chuckles with Jerry." These broadcasts take place in the studios of 1ZB Auckland, with an actual audience of about 50 people.

"It's great fun to be there," Aunt Daisy says. "Of course, Jerry had to refer very pointedly to the Apple Pie Contest."

Pie Without a Name

Horried judges in the Apple Pie Contest picked one finalist, the only one received without a name. Aunt Daisy went on the air immediately after the judging in the afternoon in a last-minute attempt to find the finalist, by giving a description of the pie and the dish. Everything finished happily—the finalist

was in the Lounge gazing happily at her pie, which was among the five best.

St. George's Day

St. George's Day, which is celebrated on Tuesday, April 23, was commemorated at 2ZB on Sunday, April 21, when a special English programme was presented to listeners. The date coincided with the anniversary of Shakespeare, and a recorded version of "Julius Caesar" was also presented.

Commencing at 2 p.m. listeners were entertained by a galaxy of British talent, made up of cameo programmes by English orchestras, singers, actors and actresses, composers, popular stage stars,



The national trophy awarded to the champion apple-pie maker of New Zealand

bands, poets, instrumentalists, choirs, women composers and small orchestras. Included also was a topical recorded version of Gracie Fields at the Front.

It was a fine entertainment, and one which will long be remembered.

Enchanted Orchard

The last episode of "The Enchanted Orchard," produced by Bryan O'Brien of 2ZB, was recorded on a recent Thursday. Little "Janie's" sad little tones as she spoke her lines in the play did not require acting, as she did indeed feel every word of what she said. In the course of the play the children are approaching Mother Nature's kingdom

on the cloud-ship of the snow fairies. Janie says, "I feel that I will never ride on a cloudship again." After the microphone was switched off at the conclusion of the Fantasy, general expressions of regret were heard from all the children who took part. "I don't know what I will do without any more Thursday night rehearsals," declared "Toby," dolefully.

The fact that the children entered so wholeheartedly into the production and so thoroughly enjoyed the work, undoubtedly showed in the completed recordings. There was a spontaneity and zest about every episode.

An amusing incident occurred in the final recording. "Toby" was required to eat an apple. Unfortunately he forgot to bring this very necessary prop. The omission was discovered just before the actual recording. Bryan proceeded post haste into Courtenay Place looking for a fruit shop only to find they were all closed. This did not deter him. Walking into a sweet-shop he purchased some chocolate and very politely asked the shop-keeper if she could possibly find an apple in the house. The urgency of the situation was explained to her and a thorough search of the house revealed just one apple. You will hear "Toby" enjoying that apple in the final episode.

Birthday Club

4ZB's Birthday Club of the Air has been a regular feature for a long time. Every Monday afternoon at 4.30 the Birthday Club is conducted by "Molly." There is no age limit in 4ZB's Birthday Club, and on occasions, some of those whose birthdays have been called were very close to the century mark. Children's birthdays, of course, predominate, but adults, too, figure very frequently in the session. From all over Otago and Southland, every post brings "Molly" a large mail, containing details of birthdays, with the result that there are few birthdays celebrated in Dunedin and its environs which do not find some mention in the 4ZB Birthday session. And what excitement ensues when the children hear their names called as they wait, expectantly, and not in vain, to hear just where their presents are hidden.

Old Timers' Day

Old Timers' Day at the 4ZB Patriotic Sing held in the St. James Theatre proved to be a very popular function. A large queue had assembled long before the doors opened at 11 o'clock, and the theatre was packed to capacity before

All ZB Stations will broadcast the drawing of the "I'm A Winner" Art Union at 5 p.m. on Friday, May 10.

noon. A very large percentage of old timers attended the Sing and the combined ages of the audience must have set a record in that direction for any community sing ever held in this city. The appearance on the stage of Mr. and Mrs. Coombs, aged respectively 91 and 94 years, was received with hearty acclamation by the audience. Mrs. Orr, who is 86 years of age, not only appeared on the stage, but also gave a particularly graphic recitation describing the adventures of those who go down to the City in Roslyn trams. She received a very hearty acclamation. The real highlight of the "Sing," however, was the appearance on the stage of Mrs. Auld, who is 96½ years of age. Mrs. Auld, in addition to making a cash donation to the Patriotic Fund, also donated a beautifully-knitted baby's matinee coat and a pair of hand-knitted men's socks to be auctioned in aid of the fund. She received an extra special ovation from the crowd. The Cinesound Review cameraman arrived complete with cinema-camera to take "shots" of these old identities, who will no doubt have the distinction of being featured in news-reel screenings throughout Australia and New Zealand. The proceeds of the "Sing" amounted to over £100. Jimmie McFarlane and "Spud" Murphy again acted as song-leaders, and various 4ZB personalities gave items.

Note for Gardeners

Listeners to 2ZA should note that the Gardening Session is now broadcast at 6.45 p.m. on Tuesdays.

"Chuckles With Jerry"

Dud: Talking of bathing, Jerry? Can you tell me what's the best way to teach a girl to swim?

Jerry: That's easy. First you put your left arm under her waist and then you gently take her left hand and...

Dud: But this girl is my sister, Jerry.

Jerry: Your sister! Aw, push her off the wharf.

* * *

Dud: I read in this morning's paper that a letter from Anne Hathaway to Shakespeare has just come to light.

Jerry: That just shows you, Dud, how bad the postal service is these days!

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