



# NEWS FROM THE ZB STATIONS

**T**HE St. James Theatre was again packed almost to capacity for the fifth 4ZB Patriotic Sing. A considerable number of people had queued up outside the theatre before the doors opened at 11 o'clock and the theatre was filled shortly before noon. The Sing went with a swing from the very start, and the appearance of "Spud" Murphy in alleged Highland costume complete with alleged Scottish accent occasioned considerable mirth among the audience and appeared to put them in a good singing mood, for every song was sung with enthusiasm. The appearance on the stage of Evie Hayes and Bob Geraghty of the Will Mahoney Revue Company was greeted with loud applause, and Miss Hayes's numbers were encored again and again. Many valuable articles donated by business houses and private donors for auction or competition aroused spirited bidding. From a financial point of view the Sing was equally a success, resulting in the raising of over £80 to swell the Otago Patriotic Fund. Items were given during the course of the Sing by 4ZB Personalities. Jimmie McFarlane and "Spud" Murphy acted as song leaders.

## Women's Movement

2ZB's Tony, whose Friday afternoon's interviews with prominent members of major women's organisations are very popular, can be relied upon for an interesting broadcast. The other Friday she interviewed Mrs. E. L. Sincock, Honorary Secretary of the United Women's Movement. The interview disclosed to great advantage the progressive ideals of the United Women's Movement (which has just started in Wellington) and the work it intends to do in improving still further the advancement of women along cultural and economical lines.

## The Young Idea

Saturday the 20th. The 3ZB broadcasting box. Time 11.30. The pageant of Akaroa Centennial Celebrations. All eyes focused.

"I'm glad I brought young John over here, Bob. Great thing, you know, for a kid to see."

"Yes, Don, wish my own daughter was a bit older."

Pause for a few minutes.

"Where IS young John, anyway?"

"Don't know. Haven't noticed him for quite a while."

"Oh, well, he's sure to be enjoying this. It's a great show all right."

Yes, young John Penton, the engineer's son, was enjoying things all right, but not quite the way his father imagined. Pomp and circumstance, re-enactment and pageant meant nothing to his young mind. He decided upon another form of amusement. Seated on a large rock at the water's edge, he was later found FISHING! His line was a length of thick twine formerly used for white marking, his hook a bent nail—his bait? Well, who cares about bait—the fish only take it away anyway. Yes, young John quite enjoyed the Centennial Celebrations at Akaroa!

## Anzac Luncheon

On Anzac Day another interesting broadcast by 2ZB was a relay from the Wellington Town Hall of an Anzac Day luncheon. This was attended by over one thousand. Speeches by the Hon. W. Perry, President of the N.Z.R.S.A.; the chief guest, L. A. Robb, C.M.G., official representative of the A.I.F.; Colonel Ashe, D.S.O., of Malaya; M. Andre Pouquet, Consul for France; and Major-General Duigan, Chief of the General Staff; were among those broadcast, while 2ZB's commentator gave a vivid word-picture of the scene.

## "Radio Discoveries"

Geoff Lloyd's Younger Set session, which has been heard from 2ZB every Friday evening at 10 o'clock, has earned a well merited popularity. It has now been decided to alter this session somewhat, and under its new title of "2ZB's Radio Discoveries" new interest is expected.

This new session is in no way a quest for talent, although local talent will be used. Geoff Lloyd hopes to do some quiet investigating with a few—shall we say, talent scouts and present them at 10 o'clock every Friday evening for listeners' pleasure.

## 4ZB's Concert Party

If you happen to encounter any 4ZB Personalities these days and notice that they have a bleary-eyed appearance, you can put it down to the fact that many of their spare (!) evenings are taken up with appearances at Patriotic Concerts in various parts of Dunedin and the surrounding districts. Jimmie McFarlane, Dennis Sheard, Airini Grennell and Peter, among others, are in constant demand for these functions. In fact, the

members of 4ZB's unofficial concert party are probably among the hardest-worked artists in the Dominion. In addition to the Patriotic Concerts, there is nearly always at least one member of 4ZB's staff included in every concert that is given for any public function.

## Wedding Present

The staff of 2ZB gathered in the Main Studio recently when a presentation was made to Ian Mackay ("Mac"), Production Supervisor of 2ZB and Station Director of 5ZB, on the occasion of his marriage. The wedding had a special interest for ZB listeners, as Mac's bride is Anne Stewart, well known for her Home Decorating sessions.

## "Spud" Murphy

"What do they know of 4ZB who only listen-in?" That may be a garbled quotation but it serves to point out that some of the personalities who appear in 4ZB's various activities have much more picturesque backgrounds than the average listener imagines. Take for instance "Spud" Murphy, who appears with Jimmie McFarlane at the 4ZB Patriotic Sings which are held in the St. James Theatre every Tuesday lunch-hour. "Spud" is a well-known character in Dunedin. He stands a mere 6ft. 2ins. and looks a trifle over 22 stone. "Spud" can always depend on uproarious laughter when he steps on the stage to conduct the Sing, for he is a real artist in make-up. In the five Sings that have been held to date, he has appeared as a Spanish Senorita, a flapper, and a Highland Chief. On Old-Timers' Day, "Spud" came out resplendent in the finery of some forgotten belle of the 1840's, complete with poke bonnet and bustle; and on one other occasion his feminine impersonation was indescribable. "Spud" will be remembered by many Southerners as a service car driver for he was famous for his repartee and his ready wit. During this period, he entertained many famous visitors to the Dominion. In fact, "Spud's" fame was carried back to the Old Country by some of those who had encountered him in their trips through Central Otago, and at least one instance is on record where a famous personage visiting New Zealand had a trip with "Spud" heavily underlined on his itinerary. There is no doubt that "Spud" contributes a great deal to the popularity of the 4ZB Patriotic Sings, and that popularity can be gauged by the fact

that well over £400 has been raised during the short period that the Sings have been held.

## Announcers Transferred

Rion Viogt, a popular announcer of 2ZB, has recently been transferred to 2ZA Palmerston North. Rion's cheery voice will be much missed in the "Hospital" and "Telephone Quiz" sessions. His place is being taken by Rex Walden of 2ZA, who is not unknown to 2ZB listeners. He is the possessor of a fine baritone voice, which was highly praised by Lawrence Tibbett, American baritone, and also by Roland Foster of the Sydney Conservatorium.

## 4ZB Radio Plays

The closeness with which listeners follow the original radio plays by Leo Fowler which are presented by the 4ZB Radio Players every Saturday evening is shown by the fact that a large number of people rang up the station or contacted members of the cast to point out that there was a technical error in the construction of the play "The Whaleboat" which was presented on a recent Saturday night. The play was based upon the experience of two early pioneers who, setting out from Taieri Mouth in a whaleboat with a load of grain for the settlement of Otakau, in the Otago Harbour, encountered a severe storm and were blown down to the Bluff, taking three weeks to make the return journey. In the play, one of the characters was made to state that the wind was blowing south-west, when to be consistent with the action it should have been blowing north-east. The fact that so many people detected the error is evidence of the intense interest with which these plays are followed.

## 2ZB's Third Birthday

On Sunday, April 28, 2ZB celebrated its third birthday, and several interesting anniversary sessions were presented.

A recording of greetings by the personalities of station 2GB Sydney, on the occasion of the opening of 2ZB on April 28, 1937, was repeated, and listeners heard the voices of Eric Colman, an announcer at 2GB and brother of Ronald Colman, the film star; Jack Davey, the "Australian women's weakness" (as he is pleased to call himself); Reg. Morgan, who needs no introduction to New Zealand listeners; and Albert Russell, who will be remembered as the leader of many a bright New Zealand community sing.

THIS IS THE COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING SERVICE