

## ★ Meet The Shopping Reporters ★



**1ZB:** Marina (Mrs. Joscelyne Parr in private life), was born of a French father and an English mother, in Pau, South of France. She claims direct descent from the Brittany branch of the House of Bourbon. She was christened Joscelyne Ursula de Jocelyn; owns and always wears a beautiful amethyst ring set in a band of wrought silver—a family heirloom. Marina's early life was spent in France, Spain, Belgium, Italy, Austria, Germany and England. In 1915 she went to England from Switzerland, and, against family wishes, began nursing in the British Red Cross. She went to Australia after the war as the wife of a young Australian soldier. In Sydney she began radio work over 2UW, and later came to New Zealand. Marina worked for 1YA before joining the ZB station in Auckland.



**2ZB:** "Suzanne" (in private life, Miss B. Wroath), was born in Auckland, and educated at the Auckland Girls' Grammar School. Her commercial life started immediately she left school. Until she went on her four months' trip to Honolulu, she remained with a commercial firm as private secretary to the general manager. After her trip, she took up a position with the Commercial Broadcasting Service, and was appointed 'hostess' at 3ZB. Two months later, she was recalled to Wellington as Uncle Scrim's secretary. Later, when Uncle Scrim went to America, Suzanne got her chance on the air. Now she conducts the "Shopping Reporter's" session each day of the week, Monday to Friday, at 11.30 a.m. from 2ZB, and is kept very busy advising listeners where to buy a frock, or where to have a fur coat renovated.

—Spencer Digby, photograph



**3ZB:** Grace Green was born in Christchurch and educated at Sacred Heart Girls' College and Canterbury College. She entered radio in May, 1929, upon joining 3ZC, Christchurch, as announcer and programme organiser. She also broadcast regularly on shortwave from the pioneer shortwave station of the Dominion (3ZC), being the first woman to do so. She became a member of the 3ZB staff upon its opening, and has shared in all duties, including breakfast and midnight sessions; has conducted children's and women's sessions, and had a share of outside relays and sidelights. Grace's conducting of the "Telephone Quiz" made it one of the most popular sessions at 3ZB, her spontaneity and repartee have helped her out of many tight corners when listeners put awkward questions to her.



**4ZB:** "Jessie" McLennan was born in Dunedin, and is very proud of her Scottish ancestry. Next to reading, amateur theatricals were her pet enthusiasm, and when the Dunedin Repertory Society was formed, she treated the local audiences to a succession of weepy heroines. Why she always got these parts was a mystery, because at the time, she was a plump, round-faced, and most cheerful person—not at all the tragedy queen of tradition. In 1935, she went to Australia, and, instead of staying there three months as she had intended, she obtained a position as announcer in a Brisbane radio station, and remained in Australia three years. After her return to New Zealand, she accepted a position with the NCBS as the "Home Service" session announcer. At the end of October, 1939 she was transferred to Dunedin as Shopping Reporter at 4ZB.



REX WALDEN waits for the red light to tell him he is on the air. His fine baritone voice will be heard in a programme of popular favourites from 2ZB at 8.30 p.m. this Saturday, June 8. He is an announcer at 2ZB. His numbers will include "On the Road to Mandalay," "Goin' Home," "At Dawning," and "Friend O' Mine." Rex Walden is a twenty-one year old New Zealander whose voice was highly praised by the famous baritone, Lawrence Tibbett, and by Roland Foster, of the Sydney Conservatorium.

## A MESSAGE FROM GARCIA (Alias "Jerry")

**C**ENSORSHIP authorities, and experts of the NCBS (Intelligence Division), were thrown into a state of confusion a day or two ago, when an envelope was received at Head Office addressed to the Controller, bearing the cryptic inscription shown above.

Code books and files were requisitioned, and conference after conference was held in an effort to decipher this strange and ominous looking document!

It was measured, weighed, tested for invisible writing, and sniffed at by fingerprint experts; and then—eureka! Somebody had an idea! What about opening it?

And then dear readers—a denouement! We might have guessed it! The author of the important looking document was none other than that irrepressible little imp of radio—"Jerry" (May borer infest his soul!).

So that Jerry's admirers may understand the kind of person he really is, we reproduce below his masterpiece, "A Message from Garcia" (alias "Jerry").

Auckland.

Dear Uncle Scrim; (Remember me?)

I am so sorry I was unable to find a white horse to have this message delivered to you, and I hope you will forgive me for being so mundane as to send it by ordinary post. However, what I would like to say is—"please can I come to Wellington?" I have tried to talk dear old George into a trip down South, but I think he is a bit scared that I will crib all the limelight. You see, Uncle, we had a bit of a "do" at the studio the other night—I saw Beau there by the way—and George was a little bit sore because I got so much applause (aren't I a scream?) and now he has seen my new Air Force uniform he wants one too—and he can't have one, can he?—the big stiff! Anyhow, to get down to tintsacks—what about it? I think it would be a good idea if I come to Wellington for the Air Force

Relations concert at the Opera House on June 9 for the soldiers (a little dicky-bird told me, and it wasn't a woodpecker!).

I am sure the Capital city would like to see my nice new uniform, then perhaps we might be able to go down South, wouldn't we Uncle? Oh, boy!

George's face is going to be a treat when he reads this letter. Anyhow, seriously, I would like to meet the people at 2ZB and all the listeners down there, and let them see I am not as bad as George and Dud make out.

Please give my love to Aunt Daisy—and tell her I hope everything is in "apple pie" order (aren't I a scream?)

Hope to hear from you soon, and please address your reply to me personally. (Don't be difficult!)

Yours to a splinter,  
"JERRY."

After a great deal of confusion in the Head Office of the NCBS, Uncle Scrim came to the rescue, and decided to send the following reply to Jerry (apparently he is forgiven):

Wellington,  
Head Office.

Dear Jerry,

It was very nice indeed to receive a note from you, and all the people down here were very glad to know that you would like to attend the concert on June 9, and just between you and me, I think we will be able to arrange for you to come down.

You certainly must look smart in your new uniform. Beau told me all about it, and I hope you will wear it when you come to Wellington. There is just one thing I would like to suggest: what about "making it up" with George and Dud before you come to Wellington? They are awfully good fellows, really!

Yours very truly,  
"UNCLE SCRIM."