



NEWS FROM THE ZB STATIONS

THROWING itself wholeheartedly into the work of raising funds for the Sick, Wounded and Distress Fund, Station 1ZB is determined that the Public Service Queen, Estelle Boucher, shall be the winning Queen. Every member of the personnel of the station has been recruited to help in this most worthy cause.

Most spectacular method of raising funds are the 1ZB concerts and community sings. Already five major Town Hall shows have taken place, including two concerts staged by Uncle Tom and the Friendly Road Children's Choir. The first was on the occasion of the choir's annual birthday and the second took place on the 30th of last month. This was a "return performance" in response to popular demand.

The following day saw a community sing in the Town Hall on the Friday evening. This sing was led by a mysterious personality sporting the most aggressive red wig seen in years. This monstrosity was matched by a vast "handlebar" moustache. All this face-fungus camouflaged the well-known "Dumb Dud," or as he is better known, Dudley Wrathall. The programme was well-supported by station personalities.

The big show, however, was presented on Tuesday evening to a jammed hall. This was the occasion of "Jerry's" first public appearance. Already becoming a fast favourite, he has endeared himself to the hearts of children and grown-ups alike. His quick repartee and cheeky retorts were in no way intimidated by the presence of a huge audience. He came on to the stage with the serenity of a veteran, although it was his first stage appearance.

Another precedent was made when the famous "European Background" commentary was broadcast from the stage of the Auckland Town Hall. This popular session, which takes place from 1ZB every week night at 8.45, was relayed from the Town Hall during the station's routine programme. Thus the audience in the Town Hall and the listeners were given the unusual experience of seeing and hearing Kenneth Melvin in action at the microphone, not from the studio, but the Town Hall stage.

Assisting on the programme were station personalities and artists frequently heard from 1YA.

New Traffic Song

Reg. Morgan of CBS has been busy preparing a new traffic song for the children. Most listeners are familiar with this signal from ZB Stations for children to be "on their way" to school.

The old familiar tune has been replaced with a new one, and the words are:

When you're on a thoroughfare, be sure you're wide awake,

Look to see the crossing clear before a step you take,

Remember there are certain rules that you must never break,

While you are walking through the traffic.

Beware! Beware! When leaving your abode,

Beware! Beware! Observe the traffic code,

Look to right and look to left,

Walk straight across the road

While you are walking through the traffic.

The song was recorded on a recent Saturday morning by the children of the Lyall Bay School Choir, numbering about 40.

Reg. Morgan stood on a high chair right in the middle of the youngsters, and from this advantageous position he conducted the song.

It was necessary to make several tests for the position of the microphone. Eventually Reg. placed the children in a circle round the microphone, which was elevated, and this gave the best result.

An orchestra was used on this occasion, comprising guitar, ukelele, banjo ukelele, three violins, string bass, piano accordion and piano. The guitar was placed in the centre of the children close to the microphone to give the rhythm effect. The ukelele was placed right underneath the mike, three violins at the side, about three feet away, and the piano accordion about five feet away on the opposite side. The song was sung with orchestral effects; a test 'cut' was made, and found to be quite in order; the positions were correct, so it was only necessary to sing the song right through and record it. After it was finished, Reg. played the record back to the children, who were delighted to hear their own voices.

£1500 In Three Days!

"Sensational" is the only word to describe the response to 4ZB's latest effort on behalf of the Red Cross and St. John appeal for the Sick, Wounded and Distressed of the war. This is the day of the "Telephone Quiz," but this time the usual procedure was reversed; instead of an announcer calling up subscribers and testing their general knowledge, telephone subscribers were invited to call the station and make contributions to the Red Cross Funds. The attraction of a "Telephone Quiz" is, of course, the fact that both sides of the conversation are heard by listeners. 4ZB had a special number allotted to the Red Cross 'phone in the studio, and although, in some cases, the notice given was short and the times were not by any means the peak listening periods, there was no lull. Each time the receiver was replaced, the 'phone started ringing again—in fact, one could almost believe that the bell was permanently in circuit. People rang from every part of the town and province, and from as far "South of the Border" as Half Moon Bay, and as far north as Whangarei. The amounts offered were from 1/- to £50, and the hard cash has been coming in with unfaltering steadiness exactly as promised by listeners over the 'phone. At the moment of writing — with "The Listener Speaks" just three days old—a sum approaching £1500 has been promised, and 75 per cent of that money has already been sent in. The remaining 25 per cent is coming in fast, and there is no telling what the final results may be. One of the most interesting features of this session is the fact that more has been

subscribed by telephone in three days than in the eleven Community Sings held so far.

"Tony's" New Competition

"Tony" has conducted several very successful competitions in her 2ZB's "Young Marrieds' Circle," and has received some very humorous and clever entries. Tony's new competition is for the best budget presented for a young married couple, and 2ZB's mail clerk awaits the mail with mixed feelings. He's already had experience of the mail which Tony's competitions bring.

Pigs Is Pigs!

Well over £200 was raised at 4ZB's most recent Patriotic Sing held in the St. James's Theatre. The sing, which was the final one of the series in aid of the Red Cross Funds, was again well attended, every available seat being occupied. An enormous amount of goods were sent in for auctioning, and it was found impossible to dispose of the whole amount in the time available. The articles sent in were many and varied, including clothes, food, flowers, needlework, as well as dogs, cats, budgerigars, fowls, fish, and even pigs. In fact, the two pigs which were donated for auctioning proved to be the star artists at the sing, for when released on the stage, their behaviour was so ungentlemanly that their instant removal had to be ordered. Amid roars of almost hysterical merriment, Uncle Percy and Lionel Seats spent several scuffling moments struggling with the recalcitrant porkers before they were finally restored to their crate and sold for £1 each.

H. L. Paterson, chairman of the combined committees, received a warm ovation when he was introduced by 4ZB's Station Director (M. S. Bullivant). Mr. Paterson, on behalf of the combined committees, thanked the public of Dunedin and of Otago for the magnificent support they had given to the Red Cross Fund Appeal. His announcement that his committee had cabled £10,000 to the Mayor of London's Red Cross Fund for replacing the ambulances and equipment lost in Belgium, was greeted with loud applause. "We are not parochial or narrow-minded," said Mr. Paterson, "and we realise the urgency of the need of this replacement, and we know that if the need arises, the British Red Cross Authorities will give splendid care and attention to our boys. We are proud to have exceeded our quota. It is largely by the help of such tireless enthusiasts as the Station Director and staff of 4ZB," continued Mr. Paterson, "that the appeal has been so successful, and we wish to thank them and all the other organisations throughout Otago which assisted so splendidly."



A happy group of 2ZB folk having a sing song: Left to right—Rex Walden, Eric Bell, Geoff. Lloyd, Findlay Robb, Mary Anne, Peter Whitchurch, Lane Patterson and Hori Thomas

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