



THE OFFICIAL PARTY at the 2ZB Happiness Club's Christmas Party held in the Wellington Town Hall last week. Left to right, front row: F. Basham, Mrs. H. G. R. Mason, Hon. H. G. R. Mason, Aunt Daisy, L. J. Greenberg (acting-chairman), Mrs. T. C. A. Hislop, Mrs. Peter Fraser. Back row: K. W. Kilpatrick (Station Director, 2ZB), Miss B. Basham, Tony Wood, Mrs. L. J. Greenberg, Sinclair Carruthers, Mrs. Carruthers, Mrs. H. Squires, Rev. H. Squires, Mrs. H. Love (Queen of Raratonga)

TURNABOUT

Heroic Christmas Gesture By 2ZB Executives

CHRISTMAS should mean good cheer and happiness for everybody, but it usually means an extra amount of self denial when it comes to providing continuous entertaining from a radio station. For on December 25 the routine number of announcers and technicians will have to be on the job to provide (to take an instance) the routine 18 hours of entertainment from station 2ZB. And, needless to say, an endeavour is always made to provide something special in the way of seasonal programmes.

This Christmas, however, thanks to a heroic gesture on the part of the executives, the announcers at 2ZB will have a normal Christmas day with their

families. For on December 25 the executives are taking over, and the whole of the day's programmes will be announced by them.

It was a noble decision, and now the station executives are just beginning to realise what they have let themselves in for. It is said that for many of them the days between now and Christmas are being spent chewing their nails, and the nights are being spent tossing worriedly. For, to a man who has seldom if ever spoken into a microphone, the prospect of an unbroken spell of announcing is something understandingly terrifying.

At the moment the executives are planning feverishly, and there is much whispering in corners and plotting of radio coups. There are rumours of high spots on the Christmas Day programme, of stunts, of a novel relay, the kind which happens only once in a life-time. Another plum is promised in the shape of a dissertation on Christmas customs by a mild-mannered executive who is obsessed with the idea of presenting the programme of the year.

The job of announcing regular features such as "Easy Aces" and "Chuckles With Jerry" has been apportioned by the toss of a coin, but, characteristically, those who are humorists by inclination want to announce the serious programmes and those who are serious people want programmes which will give them scope for humour.

The result will certainly be variety. Station director, advertising manager, accountant and engineer, will all be on the job, and they would hardly be human if a little of their normal, everyday tasks didn't creep into their announcing.

Putting It Down On Record

(Continued from previous page)

well constructed home radio gramophone, is usually of the crystal type. In broadcasting studios, however, the more expensive, more reliable, electromagnetic pick-up is used.

Weight is the most important consideration, and it is this which conditions the life both of an ordinary gramophone record and of the more fragile acetate. The pick-up on an ordinary gramophone may weigh up to four and a-half ounces, as against the two ounces of ordinary studio equipment. CBS technicians are now developing a pick-up which weighs only a few grammes.

When duplicate recording equipment has been installed at the head office studios, a start will be made on equipment for all the ZB stations, and when that stage has been reached, the service will cut out the cost of transporting artists to Wellington.

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