

HE HAS "BEEN AROUND"

Ossie Cheesman's Career

OSSIE CHEESMAN, whose dance band will be relayed by 1YA on the evening of March 25, is a native of Christchurch, and from an early age he has been playing with increasing proficiency the cornet, piano, saxophone and piano-accordion. Like most other professional musicians of the younger generation, his calling has "taken him around." He started off as a pianist in cinema orchestras when there were still orchestras in cinemas, and in that capacity travelled as far north as Auckland. From there, he went over to Sydney with the Auckland Civic Orchestra, a group of musicians who had secured a contract to play in one of Sydney's cabarets. Unfortunately for them, they got so badly off-side with Sydney's musical unionists that the project fell through when the party reached the other side. Some came back to New Zealand. Others, among them Ossie Cheesman and Craig Crawford (whose band is relayed from Sydney by the CBS in Saturday nights) stayed on and made the grade. For a time Ossie Cheesman was accompanist at 2KY, broadcast occasionally from 2GB and even recorded in one of the gramophone studios there.

Then, by way of variety, he led a band on one or two of the Islands pleasure cruises, and on another occasion, in the same capacity travelled as far as Canada.

Returning some years ago to New Zealand, he became associated with cabaret work in Auckland, Hamilton and Wellington, being relayed on many occasions by 2YA. His ability as an accompanist still took him frequently through the Dominion. He toured in this way with vaudeville companies and also acted as accompanist to Senia Chostiakoff, the Cossack singer, with whom he worked (sometimes rather inadequately disguised as a Russian) for several months.

Since he got married (he met his wife on one of those cruises to the Islands) he has lived in Auckland.

MY UNCLE WILLIE

(Continued from previous page)

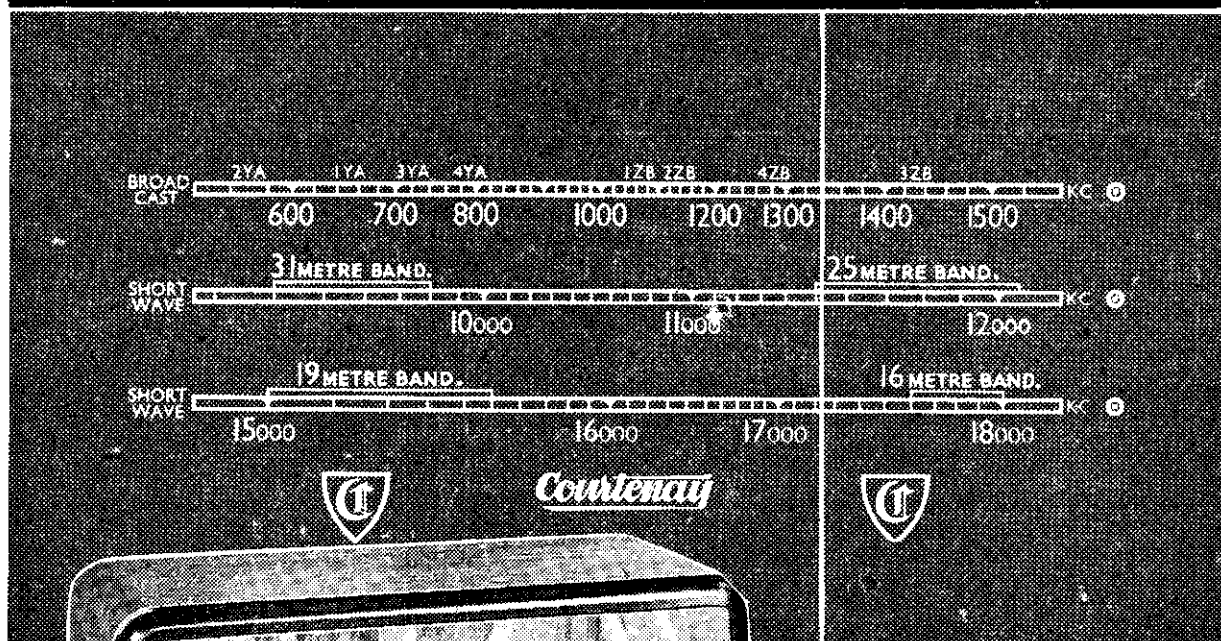
I THINK the excitement must have been too much for him, for he was never the same afterwards. In fact, he went into a sort of decline, and only lasted six months or so after the wedding.

When he died, there was naturally a lot of excitement to see how much money he was worth, and do you know what they found? He had £20 in the bank. Not a penny more. He had always been pretty sly about his money, and even my mother had been fooled.

I think the woman in the dairy nearly died of mortification herself. She went about for weeks with a dirty look on her face, as though she had been cheated. Very soon she disappeared from the district altogether, and we haven't heard of her since.

I think I know now what Uncle Willie was laughing about at the wedding.

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