

SPECIALLY FOR SCOTSMEN

At various times various claims have been made that from 40 to 60 per cent. of the population of New Zealand are Scotsmen or of Scots descent. It is a controversial subject, and while most Scotsmen are convinced that the proportion is much higher, they do not boast about it. Theirs is a silent, efficient conquest.

Concrete evidence of the growing number of Scottish folk among radio listeners is the fact that recently it was found necessary to extend "Andra's" Scottish session (from 22B every Thursday night) to half an hour.

"Andra," who in private life is Andrew Fleming, was born in Fifeshire, Scotland, something like 50 years ago. Dunfermline, ancient seat of the Scottish kings, was not very far away from his home, and "Andra" grew up in an atmosphere richly charged with Scottish history.

For thirty years, starting from the age of 12, "Andra" followed the calling of miner in Scotland, and then, twelve years ago, picked himself up by his bootlaces and came out to New Zealand. He was mining at Denniston for some years, then came to Wellington and is now working for the City Council.

He first broke into radio 18 months ago in a programme sponsored by the Railways Department. Shortly afterwards, he started his own session from 22B, consisting of a mixture of Scottish songs, music, history, anecdotes, and news of interest to exiled Scotsmen.

All About Burns

Robbie Burns, naturally, is one of the foundation stones of the session. "Andra" has an extensive Scottish library which



Spencer Digby photograph
ANDREW FLEMING
22B listeners know him as "Andra"

includes, he believes, everything Burns ever wrote. ("Though, mind you," says "Andra," "a lot of what Burns wrote should never have been published. People are always digging up something about him which had often better been left alone.")

"Andra" has a calendar on which he notes every significant Scottish anniversary, and few sessions pass without a timely reference to a great date in Scottish history or literature.

Many Sassenachs are under the impression that Scottish music begins and ends with the bagpipes. This is far from the truth, "Andra" points out. After the bagpipes, and almost ranking with it, indeed, is the melodian, or the accordion, as it is better known. This is not the elaborate piano-accordion, but a simpler

instrument, with 19 keys, which is popular in country districts in Scotland, as it is inexpensive to buy and easy to play. The Commercial Broadcasting Service, according to "Andra," has the finest library of melodian records in New Zealand.

"LISTENER" WRITER GOES TO FILM STUDIOS

AFTER two years watching *The Listener* grow from its first issue and take shape, Sydney Brookes has gone to the Miramar Film Studios as an assistant producer. There he will work under E. S. Andrews, who recently resigned the editorship of *National Education* to organise the new film units the Government is establishing.

This year the magazine has been without his services, except for the past two months, when he has been back in civilian occupation after training with units of the New Zealand Army Service Corps. He entered camp as a private in January, trained at Army School of Instruction during February and March, and was commissioned in April as an officer of a transport company.

It might not seem usual for a journalist to specialise in the army on transport work, but Mr. Brookes, during a varied career, was at one time driver of a passenger bus, and will be remembered not only by readers who have seen his name over *Listener* articles, but also by many hundreds of people who bumped along the Ball Hut road with him from the Hermitage, Mt. Cook.

Journalism and bus driving, however, are still not the whole list of his experiences. He has sampled farm life as well, tried being a hermit, has "panned" for gold, gone rabbiting, and, in general, has qualified in every respect to write some day an autobiography entitled "From Newsboy to Millionaire." The only catch in this idea, he says, is that millions are the one form of trouble unlikely to overtake him.

Well-known Mountaineer

His "lapse" from journalism occurred when he decided some four years ago that mountaineering as a hobby might well, for a time, become mountaineering for a living. He secured work as a junior guide at the Hermitage and was given an opportunity, in his first session, of climbing with Guide Jack Cox. With Miss Margery Edgar Jones these two began their season by making the second ascent of New Zealand's third highest mountain, Mt. Dampier. They turned this ascent into a first traverse and, on the same trip, traversed St. David's Dome. Shortly after the same party made the difficult east-to-west traverse of Mt. Sefton. In other climbs with Guide Mick Bowie, Mr. Brookes climbed Mt. Tasman (and made the first descent by Syme's Ridge), the Silberhorn, Mt. Teichelmann, Mt. La Perouse, and the third peak of Mt. Cook. These ascents as a guide in the Mt. Cook district followed a number of sea-

Now that the session has been extended, "Andra" hopes to be able to devote more time to such departments as the history of Scottish regiments and the history and identification of tartans. People frequently send him samples of tartan to identify, but unfortunately he often has to remind them that not every brightly-coloured checked material is a true tartan.



Spencer Digby photograph
SYDNEY BROOKES
His autobiography would be interesting

sons in which many fine climbs were made as an amateur member of the Canterbury Mountaineering Club. The outbreak of the war found him one of a party of club members completing plans for a large-scale expedition into the Himalayas through Sikkim.

In between seasons at the Hermitage he drove buses and a snow-plough, learned how to muster sheep and cattle without dogs or horses in high mountain country, received first lessons in up-country butchering, and, finally refreshed by all these and many other experiences, came to Wellington to join the staff assembled to publish *The Listener*.

Mr. Semple's "Running Shoes"

His earlier journalistic experience has been scarcely less unusual than his departure from the trade. When he left Timaru Boys' High School he worked first as an office junior in a Christchurch newspaper's agency. From there he went to Rangiora to work for the *North Canterbury Gazette*. His apprenticeship there consisted of reporting anything from funerals to floods and political campaigns. (His report of Mr. Semple's historical "running shoes" speech to the Ashley River protection scheme workers was the first one published.)

Before he left Rangiora for "the misty gorges" he had entered into partnership to purchase the printing and publishing business, and sold his interest when the appeal of outdoor work became too attractive to resist.

Last year he married Miss Anne Davies, of Pontypridd, Wales, and reports that he is still trying to pronounce Llanfairpwllgwyngwllgogerychgyndrovwlilandysillogogogoch, or "something like that."



This lad is obviously thinking out the answer to a quiz, and young New Zealanders all over the country will be racking their brains shortly when the new "Junior Quiz" goes on the air from all the ZB stations. This programme, which is a serious opportunity for young people to try their skill at quizzes, starts on Wednesday, September 10, and will be on the air at 5.30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. The subjects covered by "The Junior Quiz" will vary from month to month