

FOUR THOUSAND SUNBEAMS

EVERYONE who broadcasts from 1ZB is delighted by the station's fine new studios, but none more than "Thea," who is heard regularly in 1ZB's children's sessions. In the four years since its foundation, her Sunbeam Club has grown steadily, until now there are 4000 listed members, of whom sometimes 80 or a 100 turn up for broadcasts.

In the old studios, conditions were not very pleasant for so many small people, and broadcasts, Thea confesses, were sometimes an ordeal. Now, however, she has the special children's studio, with its cream painted grand piano, its pleasant furnishings and its gaily figured carpet which inevitably amuses and sets at ease the shyest child artist.

The club has done much good work during its short life, one of its biggest contributions being the raising of the first £1000 for the National Health Camp at one of Auckland's eastern beaches.

Besides acting as station accompanist and deputising for any service session personality who happens to be away, "Thea" has a hand in several other children's sessions, including the Junior Quiz, the Musical Army, the

Milestone Club (a birthday club which helps its members to keep a photographic record of themselves from year to year) and Peter the Pilot's Wise Owl session.

A radio veteran, "Thea" was orchestra pianist with Harold Baxter at 1YA

when that station's studios were situated in France Street, Newton. The opening of the new 1ZB was her second experience of such a function, as she was with 1YA when the present 1YA studios in Shortland Street were opened seven years ago.



HERE IS "THEA" with six small members of the Sunbeams Club. Beverly Johnston, the little girl third from the right, made her first broadcast from 1ZB when she was a year and nine months old

COOK FOR A KING

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ham. But Margaret took it all in a firm tranquil Irish stride and gave them the things she had been serving the Kennedys for years. And London's great loved it.

At first Margaret had a French chef to help her, but there was an Incident, and shortly after, he departed. The Incident was this: The chef suggested for the Ambassador's dinner an exotic symphony of fish with elaborate sauces. The Ambassador said, "Thank you, but instead, please cook me some ham and eggs." The chef went rather violently mad, as Rembrandt might have done had he been asked to paint a chicken house, and while he brooded in his room Margaret cooked the ham and eggs.

Her Strawberry Shortcake

The high point of Margaret's London career came in May, 1939, when for the first time in history, the King and Queen dined at the American Embassy. It was the first move in the British Government's effort to create closer co-operation between Great Britain and the United States. The Ambassador and Mrs. Kennedy decided to serve a real American dinner, and most of the food was shipped from the United States. But the highlight of that dinner was Margaret's strawberry shortcake. It was the first time the King and Queen had eaten strawberry shortcake. Newspapers printed the menu and gave strawberry shortcake so much publicity that to eat it became the thing to do, and it appeared on the menus in many of London's best restaurants.

I had always approached strawberry shortcake at a formal dinner with fear in my heart, for I wasn't sure whether to eat it with a fork, a spoon or with both. That's all cleared up now. Their Majesties used both.



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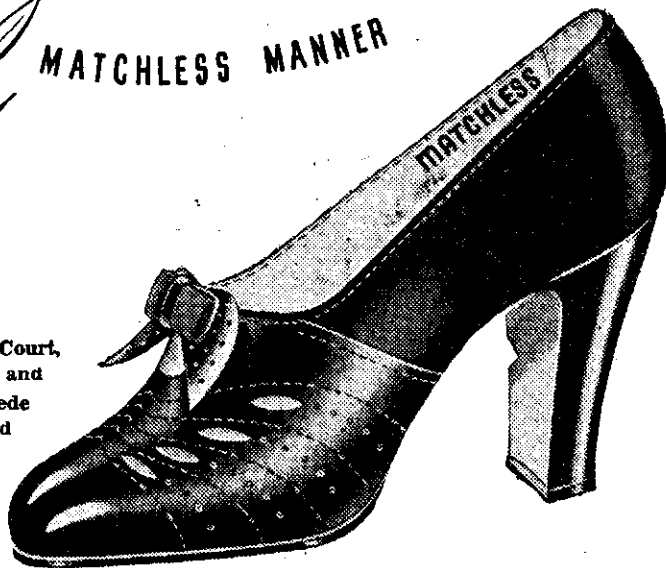
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