

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS, ON AND OFF THE RECORD.

By *Swarf*

SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT

"IT'S A LONG WAY TO TIPPERARY," strongly associated with the First World War, came out of a bet. It was produced two years before the war started. Jack Judge and Harry Williams were the joint authors. Once when Judge, a music-hall singer, was appearing at the Stalybridge Theatre, Lancashire, there was an argument about how long it took to compose a catchy song. Jack took up a wager, called at the "local," borrowed pencil and paper and got to work. That night "It's a Long Way to Tipperary" was sung at the Stalybridge Theatre; and later it became a marching song for a nation. Its theme, of course, was a sentimental story of an Irishman's visit to London. It had a tuneful melody, but it was most likely the line "Goodbye, Piccadilly; Farewell, Leicester Square," that appealed to the troops, who probably cared little how far it was to Tipperary.

of material that comes out of the groove in an acetate disc when a recording is being cut. It rhymes with *wharf*.

BEFORE he left London (according to the BBC Overseas Press Bulletin) BBC commentator on the Royal Tour Wynford Vaughan Thomas spoke in the General Overseas Service about a new programme, *Commonwealth Club*, which links listeners all over the Commonwealth. He told of the interest in Britain he always finds on his travels. He added that the BBC likes to receive any information and entertainment from listeners to the General Overseas Service. One of his tasks during the Royal Tour was to meet G.O.S. listeners in

front of a microphone and invite them to tell something of themselves, their lives and world. This personal encounter with Vaughan Thomas, said the bulletin, was possible for only a limited number; but the BBC also invited listeners to the G.O.S. to write direct to the BBC.

"ALTHEA" (Oamaru) asks why Jimmy Edwards, in *Take It From Here* occasionally calls David Dunhill "Dunners" and Dick Bentley "Benters."

This is an old public school custom, found mainly in England, and, some years ago in a New Zealand college. (It may still be in vogue here, for all I know.) Dunhill, by the way, started work in the Paris branch of famous pipe and tobacco manufacturers of that name. He turned to journalism and eventually reached the BBC in 1946 via the Egyptian State Broadcasting Company, where he was news reader and announcer. He lives in a Surrey village with his artist wife, small daughter and twin baby sons. He includes gardening and cooking among his hobbies.

DAD AND DAVE, the 16-year-old serial, due to go off the Australian air at the end of last year, is likely to be reprieved, according to *The Broadcaster* (Perth). Sponsors are seeking an option on the show. One of the bidders has ideas about reviving past episodes right from No. 1, while another is anxious to take up the threads from the last episode recorded last December. Members of the cast of *Dad and Dave* sang "Old Lang Syne" at what was thought to be the final recording.

They were Rodney Jacobs (Ted Ramsay), Dorothy Whitely (Rita Ramsay), John Saul (Dave), Ethel Gabriel (Mrs Smith), Peg Christensen (Mabel), Eric Scott (Bill Smith), Lou Vernon (Dad), Hope Suttor (Mum), Tom Farley (Alf Morton), and Lorna Bingham (Annie Morton). Lorna Bingham is also script writer.



Lorna Bingham

AMONG the artists presented by John Watt in the BBC series of new programmes *Songs from the Shows* (2YA, Saturday evenings), CAROLE JOINS THE PARTY is Carole Carr, pictured here. Carole, who spent a good part of 1952 entertaining troops in Malaya and Korea, will sing, in a forth-



CAROLE CARR
Nostalgic melodies

coming episode of *Songs from the Shows*, a Jerome Kern medley and the song by which Ivor Novello will long be remembered — "We'll Gather Lilacs." John Watt delves into famous shows of the past for part of the programme, and he will recall "Tell Me Pretty Maiden," the famous sextet from *Flora-dora*, sung in this show by the George Mitchell Choir, and "Queen of My Heart," which Haydn Coffin made into a sensational success on the first night of *Dorothy* in London in 1899.

THOMAS WOODROOFE, R.N., (Ret.), of a celebrated naval occasion, and who NAVAL COMPERE visited New Zealand early in 1949, is acting as compere for a new BBC show called *These Radio Times*.



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