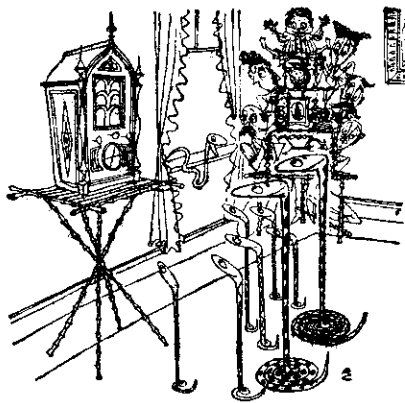


# NEWSLETTER from MALAYA

INVARIABLY charmed by a good performance, the music-loving snakes of Asia have welcomed the change from reed pipes to broadcast symphonies. According to Allona Priestley, a New Zealander now in Malaya, snakes have a passion for music. They will curl up on window sills, and sometimes enter houses, in order to listen to the programmes. Recently a speech by Sir Gerald Templar, High Commissioner for the Malayan Federation, was interrupted when a snake got into the works of the Kuala Lumpur radio station. Apparently the snake resented the interruption of his musical programme, and registered his disapproval in the most emphatic way possible.

This and other incidents of life in Malaya will be described soon in a regular series of programmes by Allona Priestley. Entitled *Malayan Newsletter*, the talks will be broadcast fortnightly in the Women's Sessions from all commercial stations.

Mrs. Priestley, well known in Wellington as a stage producer, is the wife of Don Priestley, now principal of the Maxwell Road School in Kuala Lumpur. She professes to have found Malaya so packed with interest that material for her talks has to be strictly selected. Even in her own field of drama, the place had something to offer. In one of her early talks she gives an account of the production of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* in Malayan costume. "The cast," she says, "was English, Chinese, Malay and Indian—in other words, Malayan." She was surprised at how easy it was to accept *Macbeth* as Sultan of the Malayan State of Scotland. The costumes were expensive brocades and silks in rich colours, all lent for the show by the Sultan of Selangor. Even Malayan et-



quette was introduced. In the banquet scene Lady Macbeth sat apart while the men ate, girls knelt behind the men to pour wine for them, and the food was brought in on great golden dishes with gold decorations hanging all round, and conical dish-covers on top. Macbeth's fight with Macduff involved Malayan bersilat—knife fighting, with elements of judo.

Malaya, Mrs. Priestley found, lives up to its reputation as a country where "luxuries are cheap and necessities cost the world." She describes the furnished service chalet in which she lives with enthusiasm, but gives the cost as 1000 dollars, or £110, a month. One cheap item, however, was coconuts. These grew everywhere in Kuala Lumpur. "They say there used to be a man who went round with a monkey, shouting, 'Any coconuts to gather?' If you had, the monkey ran up the tree with a rope around his waist. If you wanted green nuts for drinking, the man would tug the rope once, and if ripe nuts for eating he'd tug it twice. The monkey would throw down whatever was ordered."

*Malayan Newsletter* will be broadcast from all ZB and X stations and 2ZA every second Thursday, alternating with *London Letter*. The first broadcast is scheduled for Thursday, April 22.

## Safety on the Roads

THROUGHOUT the civilised world road traffic is staking a grim claim as No. 1 killer of mankind. So serious has the problem become that traffic police in Indiana, U.S.A., were recently authorised to shoot at dangerous drivers. President Eisenhower has stated that more Americans have been killed on the roads in 50 years than in all the wars in which the U.S. has engaged. In Britain, the total service and civilian casualties of World War II were fewer than the road casualties in the first six years of peace. The World Health Organisation reports that New Zealand is sixth from the top of the list of fatal traffic accidents on a population basis. Last year the toll on New Zealand roads was 312 killed, 40 more than the previous year. In the first months of this year the toll has risen to an all-time high of more than one death a day.

The work being done to reduce the peril on New Zealand's roads forms the basis of an NZBS documentary programme to be broadcast by Commercial stations on Sunday, April 25. Entitled *More Deadly Than War*, it tells of the three E's—Engineering, Education and Enforcement—on which traffic authorities base their campaign. But in the last analysis, the programme points out, road safety depends on the individual's attitude. In an appeal to New Zealanders to make May and June—the worst months for accidents—the best this year, the Minister of Transport, W. S.

Goosman, says: "We have got to get rid of the fatalistic view that the price of progress is more injuries, more death on the roads, more grief in our homes."

... We must show a little more regard for our own lives and safety, and for everyone else's."

*More Deadly Than War* plays on Sunday, April 25, from 12B at 6.0 p.m., 2ZA at 6.30 p.m., and 2, 3 and 4ZB at 8.30 p.m.

### The First Anzac Day

AT dawn on April 25, 1915, the inlet of Ari Burnu, on the peninsula of Gallipoli lost its name. It became Anzac Cove, the bridgehead of an invasion which failed. By the time the troops were evacuated, eight months later, 15,000 Allied soldiers lay dead on the peninsula—3000 of them New Zealanders. The story of the Anzac venture, of the opposition to it, and of its execution and final failure, is graphically told in a half-hour NZBS documentary, *The First Anzac Day*, to be broadcast by all ZB stations and 2ZA this Anzac Day, Sunday, April 25, at 2.0 p.m. The feature was written by Allan Sleeman and produced by him at the Christchurch studios of the NZBS.

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