

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS,  
ON AND OFF THE RECORD,  
By *Swarf*

SOMETHING TO SING  
ABOUT

THE tune of "Lilliburlero" first appeared in print in 1686 in a book of lessons for the flute or recorder. It was described as merely a quickstep. A year later it became popular set to some satirical verses with the mock Irish word "Lilliburlero" as a refrain, referring to the appointment to the Lord Lieutenantcy of Ireland of General Talbot, just created Earl of Tyrconnel, whose name they mention several times. According to Chappell's "Popular Music of the Olden Time," the tune of "Lilliburlero" was included, in 1689, in the second part of "Music's Handmaid" as "a new Irish tune by Mr. Purcell."

the wrong switch and the listeners heard an explosion which sounded like anything but a cough."

Radio once got Ernest Le Grove temporarily into close contact with the police. He and some others were broadcasting a play from the studios in Waring Taylor Street, Wellington, and they had to produce the sound of revolvers being fired. After several experiments the most authentic effect was obtained by clambering out on the window ledge and firing a starting pistol. Not many blanks had been fired before, "from information received," inhabitants of the Central Police Station were "proceeding to the scene." The station is only a few doors away in the same street.

Mr. Le Grove, who has produced for the Wellington Repertory Society and other amateur theatrical concerns, works with the Navy Department. He is married and lives in Kelburn, Wellington.

PETER COOPER, the New Zealand pianist, who returned from England last year to make a tour of New Zealand, has arrived back in London. Already he has given several concerts in the North. Cooper intends to visit South Africa in May for the SABC.

"GLENN MILLER FAN" (Wellington) wants details about some of the members of Glenn Miller's Orchestra.

This orchestra, now defunct (I presume the correspondent refers to the Army group) was considered one of the greatest of all American dance bands. Its members were recruited from all over the United States by the U.S. Army. One of the foremost players was Ray McKinley, drummer, whose technique is especially noteworthy in Jerry Gray's arrangement of the *Anvil Chorus*. Ever since he was five years old McKinley gave his mother little peace because of his drumming on her pots and pans at every opportunity. In 1926 he struck up a friendship with Ben Pollack, Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller and others, and from then on met with success after success. Other

well-known instrumentalists with the Miller band were "Peanuts" Hucko, who was the featured clarinet player, Mel Powell and Jerry Gray (arranger). When Miller was reported missing and presumed to have been killed on active service while with the Army Air Corps, Gray took over the conducting of most of the programmes. In spite of at least a dozen so-called "Miller-styled" orchestras, the sounds and style have remained peculiar to Miller-led orchestras.

"BATON" (Wairoa) writes: "Can you tell me how long the title of Master of the King's Queen's Music has been in existence?"

Since 1626, when the honour was first conferred upon Nicholas Lanier by King Charles I. Sir Arthur Bliss, who for some years was Head of BBC Music, is now Master of the Queen's Musick in succession to Sir Arnold Bax, who died last October. The office has become in a sense the musical equivalent of the Poet Laureate.

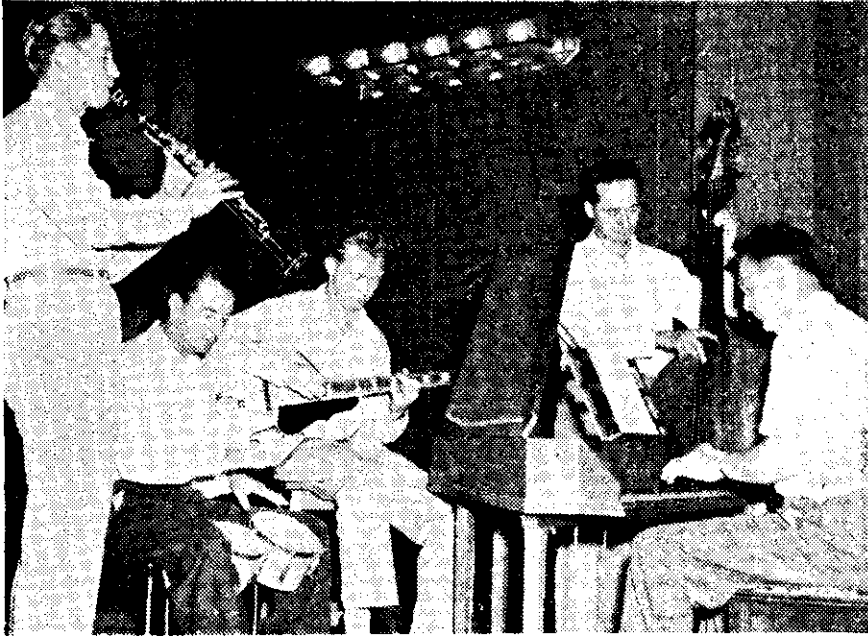
KATHLEEN REARDON, Auckland mezzo-soprano, will leave for London in June to begin a two years' Government bursary in singing. She holds a Fellowship of Trinity College and L.R.S.M., and was a winner of the Walter Kirby Scholarship in singing at Auckland University College. She will travel by air and will spend 17 days in the United States. "On arrival," she said the other day, "I am just going to get right down to learning to sing."

MISS REARDON, who already has a high reputation as a radio singer, is now being heard from 1YC in a series of four studio recitals, broadcast on Wednesdays at 8.0 p.m. These programmes may later be heard from other YC stations. Her principal enthusiasm, she says, is for lieder singing.



KATHLEEN REARDON

MAX BYGRAVES is a 30-years-old carpenter turned comedian, who took his first professional job in a Jack Payne revue about seven years ago with another unknown called Frankie Howerd. Bygraves has topped the bill at the Palladium and earned himself a regular place in *Educating Archie*, which starts at the four YA stations on May 8.



LISTENERS to modern music sessions from 1YA will be familiar with the work of Derek Heine and his Clavtones. This group consisted of Heine (clarinet) leading a rhythm section of piano, guitar, string bass and drums, and the programme produced a variety of styles from jazz to "pop" tunes and South American rhythms, as well as a little of what is known as "bop." Derek Heine has now changed the atmosphere of the group by replacing the piano with the harpsichord. "This instrument is played very competently by the pianist Lou Johnston who, until the week before recording his first programme with the new ensemble, had never seen a harpsichord, let alone played one," he said. Bob Ewing is the bass player and Ray Gunter and Denny O'Brien complete the rhythm section "Our programmes strive to give a drawing-room atmosphere to modern music," says Heine, "and they are meant for radio listeners rather than dancers; but all our numbers could be danced to with ease." Denny O'Brien uses bongos in some faster numbers to add a Latin flavour. The Derek Heine Quintet, with Lou Johnston at the harpsichord, was heard first from 1YA on April 22. It will be on the air again on April 29 and May 6 from the same station at 7.45 p.m.

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