

Cross the Wide Pacific

LATER this year the Pacific Ocean and its islands will be subjected to a new form of radio activity. Jack Dobson, an NZBS producer, will be translating something of its character and the lives of its people on to his recording tapes. He will be able to do so as a crew member of the 34-foot ketch Naitamba, sailing from Los Angeles to Wellington. "It's just possible," says Mr.

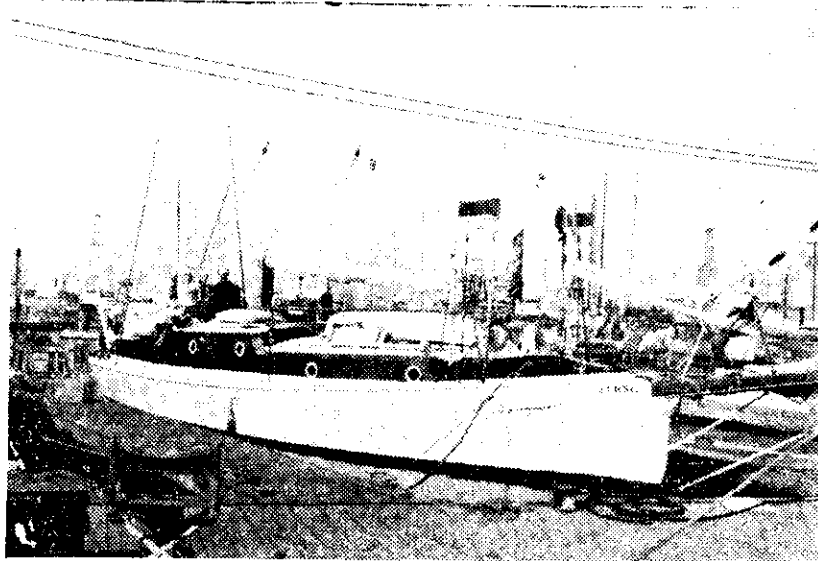
Dobson, "that the voyage will be as dull as ditchwater, but if it isn't I should get some excellent programme material."

One of 135 applicants, Jack Dobson was chosen by R. K. Smith, an ex-U.S. Navy man, now resident in Wellington, for the task of helping to bring the Naitamba to New Zealand. The crew is to leave for the U.S. in the liner Oronsay later this month. The return journey is expected to be of 6500 miles and to occupy three months. Naitamba is equipped with an auxiliary engine, but this is used only when entering or leaving harbour.

When *The Listener* called on Mr. Dobson recently he was struggling with the formalities required of those who travel abroad. "Everyone's very helpful and obliging," he said, "but it seems there is no file for crazy yacht voyages." Outlining his plans for the trip, Mr. Dobson said he hoped to start off with a documentary, made aboard the Oronsay, on the daily routine of a liner at sea. In North America he would gather material for broadcast in San Francisco, Los Angeles, the Grand Canyon in Colorado, Arizona and San Diego. At the last place, he hoped to obtain a programme about the 1st and 2nd U.S. Marine Divisions which were in New Zealand during the war. While in Los



JACK DOBSON



THE ketch Naitamba which is to make the Pacific crossing from Los Angeles to Wellington this year

Angeles he would visit the Hollywood studios of 20th Century-Fox to record a programme on the production of a film. En route home he will tape-record the most outstanding incidents and sights of the voyage, as well as programmes about the Canton, Hawaiian and Fiji Islands. Though the journey is being undertaken on his own initiative,

the recordings will be available to the NZBS on his return.

During Mr. Dobson's absence from New Zealand listeners will still be able to hear several programmes he has planned or produced, among them *Variety Magazine* (see page 11), *One Minute, Please, Time to Sing*, and a serial entitled *May I Have the Treasure?*

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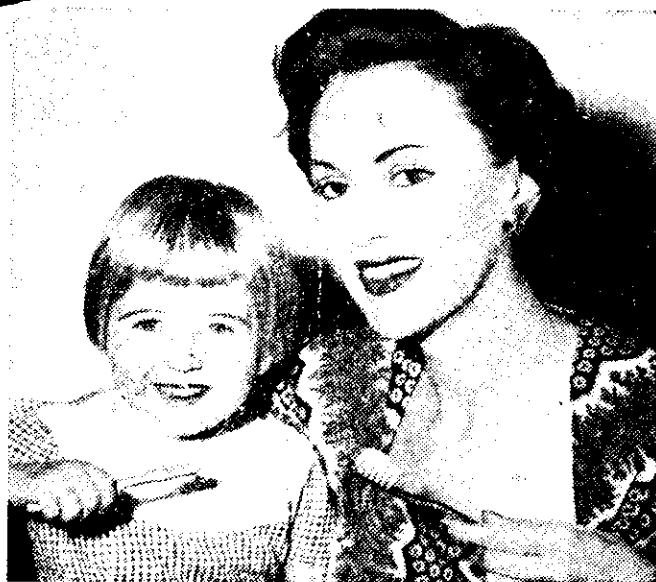
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N.Z. LISTENER, MAY 14, 1954.