

ISLANDS AND ISLANDERS

YOUNG people, and quite a few older ones, love islands. Put a few miles between yourself and the mainland, and if you're young enough in body or mind you can see all sorts of romantic possibilities in any island—well, almost any. Of course, not every island is likely to have buried treasure on it (though it's not hard to put yourself in the state of mind when you can imagine it might have), but with or without its chest of pieces of eight every island worth the name is likely to remain in the minds of young people a rather special place.

Young listeners have a choice of two sorts of islands from National stations at present. One, in the middle of a stream in Devonshire, is the setting for Roland Pertwee's exciting tale *The Islanders*, and the other, complete with Spy-Glass Hill, three red crosses and pieces of eight, is the Treasure Island of Robert Louis Stevenson's famous tale.

The Islanders, an NZBS production of a radio serial based on the book, is being heard in the *Children's Session* from 2YZ on Tuesdays—the second instalment will be broadcast on May 18—and later it will be on the air in *Children's Sessions* from other stations. Roland Pertwee himself, who had a part in the serial when it was produced by the BBC, prepared the radio script. Mr. Pertwee is no newcomer to acting; some years ago he visited New Zealand with a touring company.

If your mother and father were dead and you had been used to spending your holidays with an aunt at a seaside resort you would probably be as excited

as Pat Faraday was when he and two friends were offered the free run of a mile of river and 500 acres of woodland and hillside for the summer holidays. A condition was that they should house and feed themselves and, in fact, live entirely by their own wits and the work of their own hands. Like the Swiss Family Robinson they were given something to start with—stores and tools "washed ashore" near the island which they were to make their home and their fortress. In coming weeks young listeners will hear about their adventures—including an encounter with gypsy boys, a journey on a raft and a disagreement with a sportsman who is hunting and fishing in the area. The principal parts in *The Islanders*, which was produced by Bernard Beeby, are taken by Gavin Yates, Raydia d'Elsa and Bernadette Canty.

Treasure Island, it is generally supposed, started with the map, though G. B. Stern, in *Collins Magazine*, tells a story of a beginning-before-the-beginning: Stevenson, a candidate for a university post, rehearsing eloquent lectures with his stepson, young Lloyd Osborne, as audience, till "a weary but polite little boy" asked him to "try and write something interesting!" Still, Lloyd's own story is of the map which he was tinting, and of his disappoint-



An illustration by Margery Gill from Roland Pertwee's "The Islanders" (Oxford University Press)

ment when Stevenson put it in his pocket—"after all, it was my map." But it was only next morning that his stepfather called him up to his bedroom (the beloved map was lying on the coverlet) and read aloud to him the first chapter of *Treasure Island*.

Turned into a radio play by John Keir Cross, and produced by the BBC, *Treasure Island* will be broadcast from 3YC at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 19. Leading parts are taken by Laidman Browne (Long John Silver), Deryck Guyler (Jim Hawkins the man) and Brian Smith (Jim Hawkins the boy).

(Solution to No. 694)

M	I	R	A	G	E	S	C	H	I	S	T
A	E	I	O	N	O						
R	E	P	O	S	E	E	X	C	E	P	T
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K	R	T	T	S	A	T					
A	B	A	T	I	S	S	H	E	R	P	A
D	W	M		O	T	N					
O	U	N	C	E	S		D	E	P	O	R

Clues Across

- Nearly a dozen termites living on the premises?
- I am lost in a labyrinth of grain.
- Take forty-five inches out of the umbrella and it will still give a shadow.
- The gag goes wrong surrounded by fat.
- (two words) and 11. Having had one over the eight?
- Strange name for a streetcar, but Tennessee Williams should know.
- Andrew is put on his guard.
- I am in front of the army, and apparently rather conceited about it.
- No hearts (anag.)
- The professor is upset when the servant turns her back on him when offering a jewel.

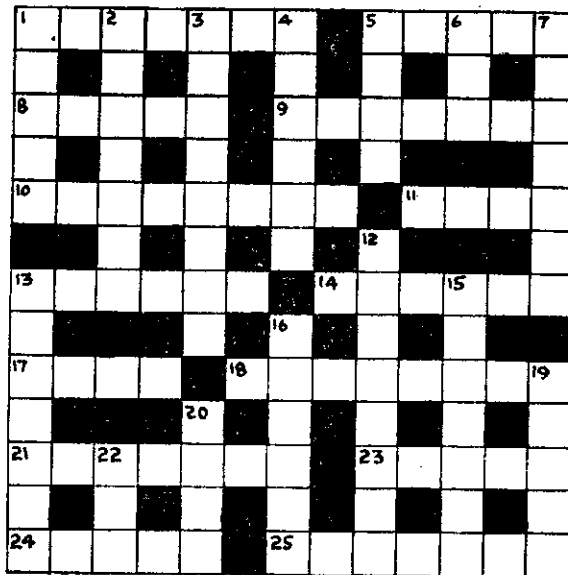
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- It follows part of the regalia.
- Fourth letter to the Greeks?
- Belonged to her? They are found in taps.

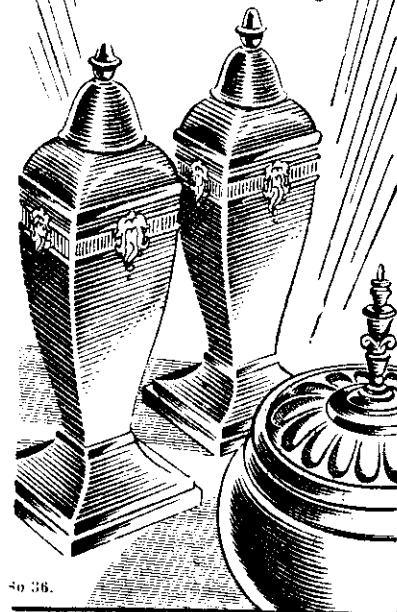
Clues Down

- Ought to become far from tender.
- Len's bib (anag.).
- Its maker put two and two together to some purpose (two words).
- He is found in the midst of insult and injury, but, if sweet, in the garden.
- Their gifts were gold and frankincense and myrrh.
- Princess, if you're a Gilbert and Sullivan fan, or Lake, if you're a Canterbury skating enthusiast.
- Lasted a long time, but could come to a rude end.
- The Irishman disturbs the peace, but on the whole they love their country.
- "Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not —" (II Samuel, chapter 1).
- Noel is upset about the T.A.B.
- How sad! (anag.).
- These are naturally part of a piano test piece.
- Was this Spanish painter interested in yoga?
- Shallow, but without show.

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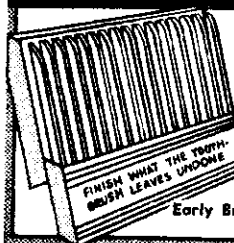
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