

By *Swarf*

SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT

THE hero of "The Vicar of Bray" was a real personage who contrived to hold on to his position through the reigns of Henry VIII (Roman Catholic and then Protestant), Edward VI (Protestant), Mary (Roman Catholic) and Elizabeth (Protestant). Bray is in Berkshire, and the verse expands a popular Berkshire proverb—"The Vicar of Bray will be Vicar Still." But the vicar wasn't singular; at that period there were several clergymen—and even a few bishops—just as adaptable. The words we know today are said to have dated from the early 18th Century and concern events of the 17th (not those with which the actual Vicar of Bray was concerned). An early poem on the same lines is Ned Ward's "The Religious Turncoat." The present verse was long sung to a Scottish tune, "Bessy Bell and Mary Gray," but since about 1770 it has been given its present tune of "The Country Garden," which originally appeared in print in "The Quaker's Opera" in 1728.

been actively engaged in looking after the estate of Lady MacRoberts in Aberdeenshire, Scotland."

My thanks to these and other correspondents, and the readers who telephoned, for the additional information which should interest the inquirer (A. M. Johnson, of Christchurch).

★

NOT long ago I explained, on this page, how Edgar Lustgarten produces his brilliant BBC series *Prisoner at the Bar* (now going the rounds of the stations). Here is some more personal information about this man of so many parts.

Early in the last war a BBC announcer named Brent Wood was asked to counter the anti-

DOUBLE LIFE British propaganda broadcasts by William

Joyce (Lord Haw-Haw). Wood lived a double life and had a dozen names. In the daytime he was a barrister working alongside Hartley Shawcross and Maxwell Fyfe. By night he took parts in radio plays, played records and wrote radio scripts. Brent's real name was Edgar Lustgarten. Now in his middle forties, Lustgarten was born in Manchester. His ambition was to be a writer but as the son of a lawyer he had no objection to following his father's profession. He was always acutely mindful of the drama of the law: as a broadcaster he had many and varied assignments: as a radio writer he was unexpectedly versatile. The eminent barrister, the late Sir Patrick Hastings, would probably have been shocked to the core to learn that Lustgarten, who occasionally acted as his junior, wrote songs like "Something Must Be Wrong About Love" and "I Gotta Croon the Blues." By the time Lustgarten got to answering the German radio he had had a lot of broadcasting experience, and was soon more than a match for Haw-Haw. When



STATION 3ZB's "Junior Garden Session" conducted by "Mr. Garden-Man" (David Combridge), has been on the air for many years on Mondays at 5.30 p.m. Every week children, whose ages range from six to 14, take arrangements of flowers and foliage for inspection and comment by Combridge. Two cups have been given by W. D. Carpenter, of the Canterbury Carnation Society, for the under 11 and the over 11 competitor gaining most points. About 33 juniors take part and several have given short talks and demonstrations at their schools. The photograph above shows Mary Collingwood, latest cup winner, with her display of autumn flowers and foliage

the war was over he became senior talks producer of the BBC's Overseas Service. In his leisure he wrote a novel, *A Case to Answer* and eventually resigned to concentrate on writing, specialising in crime.

★

"M.D." (Christchurch) wants to know something about Ken Griffin, organist. Griffin, born in Columbia, Missouri, was once a violin student, but on hearing the organ decided to go in

VIOLINIST TURNS ORGANIST for the larger instrument and taught himself. He played

at theatres throughout the Middle West and soon gained a large following. Then when portable organs were available he played in hotel lounges and night clubs. He has recorded many popular song tunes and he is heard frequently on YA and ZB programmes. The Commercial stations sometimes feature Griffin in quarter-hour sessions.

Sorry, I have not been able to get hold of his photograph.

★

MILIZA KORJUS (for the information of "Opera Lover," Christchurch) was born in Latvia of Swedish and Russian parents. As far as I know, the soprano, who is often heard on recordings in NZBS programmes, is still singing. As a girl she tried to make her

MUSIC BEFORE BEER way as a ballad singer and not only the towns of the Baltic region but Finland

and Sweden took her up enthusiastically. One evening in Riga, runs the pretty tale, a young German businessman strolling through the streets, read a poster announcing a concert by Miliza Korjus. He went along and sat in the third row. While he was reflecting whether an hour or two in a comfortable beer house would be more interesting Miliza walked on to the stage. Three days later they were engaged to be married. As the young German's home was in Magdeburg, that city became Miliza's first home in Germany, and then the path led the singer steeply to the Berlin State Opera. Some years ago, finding it hard to discover a prima



MILIZA KORJUS

donna who could do justice to the melodies of Johann Strauss, the late Irving Thalberg shelved his production *The Great Waltz* for some time. By chance he heard a record made by Miliza Korjus, and was so delighted with her voice that, on the strength of that record only, he cabled an offer that took her to California and fame.

★

"**HAPPY HARRY**" (Redcliffs, Christchurch) writes: "During the Second World War our Air Force Band made a great hit with its playing of **COSMIC** 'Stardust'—apparently one of its favourite songs. My wife declares that 'Stardust' was composed by Cole Porter; I put my foot down firmly and say Hoagy Carmichael was the composer. Who's right?"

You can keep your foot down and stay "happy, Harry."

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EXPLANATION

REGARDING EDMONDS SIMNEL CAKE

Recently an Edmonds advertisement appeared in this publication featuring Simnel Cake. Unfortunately the recipe for the Almond Paste—an important ingredient of the cake—was inadvertently omitted.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused by this omission. The complete recipe is given below, and we must stress that on no account should any substitute Almond Paste be used—use only the Almond Paste given in the recipe.

SIMNEL CAKE

4 oz. Butter, 4 oz. Sugar, ½ teaspoon Spice, ½ teaspoon Cinnamon, 2 Eggs, 4 oz. Flour, 1 teaspoon EDMONDS Baking Powder, Pinch of Salt, 4 oz. Seeded Raisins, 4 oz. Sultanas, 4 oz. Currants, 2 oz. Cherries, 2 oz. Almonds, 2 oz. Mixed Peel, Rind of ½ Lemon.

Method: Cream butter, sugar and spices. Beat in eggs one at a time, then add sifted dry ingredients. Mix in prepared fruit. Place half of mixture in a papered tin, then a layer of almond paste (see recipe below), then remainder of mixture. Bake 2½-3 hours at 350°F. in a round tin 6in. x 3in.

ALMOND PASTE

2 oz. Ground Almonds, 2 oz. Icing Sugar, 2 oz. Castor Sugar, Egg to mix.

Method: Sift icing sugar, add ground almonds and castor sugar, mix to a firm paste with a little beaten egg. Use the same quantity to decorate the top of cake. Place a layer around the edge of the cooked cake. Bake in a slow oven about 30 minutes.