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GUARANTEED NON-CREASE

THE young man here at the gate alone is Ivan Tabor, who conducts 2ZA's *Country Digest* programmes (Mondays, 12.34 p.m., and Fridays, 8.45 p.m.). When he was 12 he left school to go on the land, and now he is dairy-farming 120 acres at Whakarongo, near Palmerston North. Tabor, aged 29, takes a wide interest in local farming organisations; he was Dominion President of



Young Farmers' Clubs in 1952-53. He is also a prominent athlete—district track and cross-country runner—and winner of several championships. Recordings made by him have been heard from the BBC, ABC and VOA, and from New Zealand stations other than 2ZA. His programmes, which, I'm told, are well received among Manawatu farmers, include speakers from Massey College, the D.S.I.R.—Grasslands Division—and the Palmerston North branch of the Department of Agriculture. Coverage of local stock sales is also part of his radio work.

KATHLEEN FERRIER, the singer, who died in October of last year, left estate "so far as can at present be ascertained," valued at £15,134 (duty paid £1159), says *The Times*. She left

Open Microphone

£1000 and her three-stone opal ring to Bernadine M. Hammond, secretary. SINGER AND COMEDienne *ITMA's* "Mona Lott" ("It's being so cheerful..."), whose death also occurred recently, left £5305 (duty paid £62).

Her name in private life was Mrs. John Mayhew Morton, and she was the wife of Francis C. Morton, actor. She was also a sister of Philip Harben, the television cook. Before *ITMA* she had played only one comedy role.

AILSA BOYES (Mt. Eden, Auckland): Not a great deal is known here about the young singer Mado Robin. I am told that she is now appearing at the Opera Comique, Paris, and that she has WHISTLING just made DIVA a recording

of *Lakmé*, by Delibes. It is only in the last two years or so that she has come into prominence.

Patrice Munsel, of the Metropolitan Opera, made her debut in 1943 at the age of 18. She was born at Spokane, Washington, in 1925, only child of Dr. Audley and Eunice Munsel. Her father is a dentist and her mother plays the piano. When she was 16 she went to New York for rigorous training, and at the beginning of this year she sang in *La Bohème* at the Metropolitan. She received an ovation, and backstage in her dressing room, grinned happily, saying: "I love an audience." One critic said that her flashing "Musetta"—her first time in the role—proved that she has reached the top of her operatic class.

Patrice Munsel studied whistling for seven years with a Spokane whistling teacher, Marjorie Clark Kennedy, to whom whistling was an art, not a parlour trick. But the teacher suggested that the girl, having a "God-given voice," should take up singing. A teacher

in New York sat her down for some straight advice. He said that she had a wonderful voice, but then so had lots of young people. The singing profession was a "nasty business in many ways," and unless she wanted to put in years of hard work she would get nowhere.

Miss Munsel has to learn her roles thoroughly, and for a good reason. "I'm as blind as a bat," she says. Without her



PATRICE MUNSEL

glasses she can hardly see either the prompter or the conductor. In spite of her rise to diva level she is said to be "no prima donna in temperament."

INCREASINGLY large numbers of people in England are taking up archaeology as a hobby. Sylvia Gray, a BBC news reporter, said recently that members of the Worthing Archaeological Society had spent many evenings excavating a Neolithic flint mine just outside Cissbury Ring on

DIGGERS ALL top of the Sussex Downs. She went to have a look at this mine, shinning down a rope ladder to the bottom. Holes like big rabbit warrens led off in all directions from the main shaft, and she wriggled through the biggest of them, which was about two feet high and of the same width. It was warm and damp inside and solid chalk walls still showed marks of Neolithic picks made of reindeer horn. Sylvia Gray, stretched flat



"FOR THE DEFENCE" actors at work in a Sydney studio. Sitting (left to right): Richard Meikle, Margaret Christensen and Lawrence H. Cecil (director); standing, John Saul, Ron Roberts (narrator) and Betty Leggo. "For the Defence" is broadcast by the four ZB stations and 2ZA at 9.0 p.m. on Saturdays.