

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS, ON AND OFF THE RECORD,

By *Samuel*

SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT

"THE 'singing commercial' did not originate with the radio. Street vendors in Europe often sang to sell their wares. The Irish song 'Molly Malone' tells of the fishmonger who sang 'Cockles and mussels, Alive, alive, oh.' And you'll all know 'Who'll Buy My Violets?' And the Cuban 'Peanut Vendor.' In New Orleans they sang to sell shrimps. In old Philadelphia the Pepper Pot soup man used to sing to sell his wares. And, in Australia, of course, 'Rabbitto,' says C. W. Vorhees, in 'Tempo.'

London, as the most famous of all homes of street cries, seems to have been overlooked. New Zealand has had its vocal street salesmen and still has in some parts. Take, for instance, the call 'Whitebait' on a descending scale, and in Wellington particularly, 'Otaki Violets.' And it's not really so many years since the butcher, sitting up on his two-wheeled cart, with the scales hanging from the roof, cried, without a hint of boastfulness, 'A leg o' mutton for a bob th' day.'

against the floor and smothered in chalk, asked John Pull, a Worthing postman who has spent his spare time for the past 30 years in uncovering Sussex flint mines, what had been found lately. He shone his torch down to the far end of the tunnel, where there was a little ledge on which they had found a group of flint tools; this had evidently been a sort of sitting-out place, rest room and repair shop combined. "The summer's most interesting find," said Pull, "was a skeleton, found lying flat out at the entrance to the tunnel. It had a fractured shoulder and arm and a crushed pelvis. Its right arm was folded under its chest and crushed into the chest itself were fragments of carbon, the remains of a torch." It was thought that the skeleton had been a Neolithic thief,

holding a burning torch, who had crept into the tunnel at night, probably to steal flints. He had been caught by a fall of rock. As Miss Gray moved slowly backwards towards the shaft and the fresh air, Mr. Pull gave her a calm word of warning: "Don't touch the roof," he said, "it might come down."

★
"PLEASANT LISTENING" (Oxford. Canterbury): You're not wrong, you're right: Geraldo's real name is Gerald Bright. He was born in London and adopted the name of Geraldo from his long association with continental music.

He is a member of a musical family; his elder brother, Sidney Bright, is a well-known pianist, organist and choirmaster. Geraldo, a pianist for many years, formed his own light orchestra, and was engaged at one of England's most popular seaside resorts. He came more notably to public favour when he took his Gaucho Orchestra to the Savoy Hotel, London, to replace the famous Varaldi Tango Band. After many years with this orchestra he switched to modern dance music and showed that in this field he was as outstanding as with his tango rhythm. He became a regular broadcaster with the BBC. During the war years Geraldo was appointed Dance Music Director of ENSA. He still has with him one man who has been his adviser and pianist for many years—brother Sidney. ★

A HARD-WORKING young woman who sold hats to Modom by day and spent her evenings in the more useful occupation of learning foreign languages, bore the name of Rosealba Giuliana Maria Teresa Mostosi. There came a time when she attended a party given by the London restaurateurs, the Quaglino brothers. In the middle of the party all guests were asked to do a bit of entertaining, and Rosealba decided to sing one or two songs in the languages she had learned at night school. Out of that came a contract to sing at a London restaurant owned by the two brothers, and she became a professional singer. As is the curious custom, she had to choose for herself a professional name. That wasn't hard. In Italian Rosealba means "rose of the dawn," and Giuliana is "Julie," so Rosealba Mostosi became Julie Dawn. She spent eight years with Eric Winstone and his band, and also ac-

quainted another name still when she married Eddie Mordew, the band's saxophone player. ★
SOUND radio and television will have their patron saint if a proposal made recently by the Bishop of Assisi, Mgr. Placido Nicolini, is accepted by the Roman Catholic Church (according to *The Times*). The Bishop has indicated St. Claire as the most suitable saint, recalling the narrative that when lying ill at St. Damian she saw in a vision a Christmas ceremony which was being held at the basilica of St. Francis. ★
L. GERARD (Christchurch): Sorry, I haven't been able to track down a photograph of Mum in the serial *Dad and Dave*, but inquiries are still being made. The part is played by Hope Suttor. ★
"TENOR" (New Plymouth): Webster Booth and his wife Anne Ziegler visited New Zealand in 1948. Booth, best known for his romantic duets with his wife, began concert work in 1927, and he has sung oratorio in most of Britain's concert halls. He began duo work with Anne Ziegler in 1940. Booth's hobbies are keeping dogs and cats, cooking (food) and riding (horses).



JULIE DAWN

BBC photograph

The WORLD'S BIGGEST SONG HITS

- ★ "THE GANG THAT SANG
HEART OF MY HEART"
- "GOD'S LITTLE CANDLES"
(Jimmy Boyd's Biggest Song Hit)
- "SWEDISH RHAPSODY"
- "QUEEN OF EVERYONE'S
HEART"
- "A DEAR JOHN LETTER"
(The Latest Craze)
- "GOT YOU ON MY MIND"
- "ISTANBUL" "ISTANBUL"
- "FLIRTATION WALTZ"
(By Winifred Atwell)
- "ROBE OF CALVARY"
- "EBBTIDE" "EBBTIDE"
(Words and Music)
- "BUTTERFLIES"
- "BRIDGE OF SIGHS"
- "WOMAN-(MAN)"
- HI-LILI, HI-LO "CORONATION RAG"
- "A BROKEN ENGAGEMENT"

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MOST of these people are known in New Zealand through radio or films. They are seen rehearsing for "The Forces Show," broadcast weekly in the BBC Light Programme. From left to right they are: Denis Goodwin (scriptwriter), Bill Worsley (producer), Jack Buchanan (who introduces the programme), Lizbeth Webb, Bob Hope (guest artist), Diana Dors, Eric Barker (guest artist) and Bob Monkhouse (scriptwriter). ★



BBC photograph