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ISTENERS who are interested in the sea and the early history of New Zealand will find pleasant and informative narratives in The Log of the Victoria, to be broadcast from Station 2XP New Plymouth, starting on the evening of Monday, June 7, and continuing once week for the following three weeks. Written by the Rev. W. C. Comber, who has made a study of ships which have sailed round the New Zealand coasts, the series is based on the log book of the brig Victoria. The stories concern the years between December, 1839, and June, 1843, when the Victoria played an important part in such incidents as the transportation of the then Governor, Captain Hobson, his staff and Government officers from Russell to Auckland; the apprehension of smugglers; visits to the French at Akaroa, to troublesome Maoris at Tauranga. and to Nelson at the time of Te Rauparaha's massacre.

"BEAVER" (Christchurch): I commend to you the following jingle: There was a young girl from Lansing Who said "I'm sure I can PERCHANCE

sing": TO DANCE Her teacher Herr Harry Hur

Decided to marry her. And now they live happily with their seven children.

and Mrs. Hur doesn't sing any more, but occasionally indulges in dancing.

WHEN the "first lady of the air," Gladys Young, was asked what she liked apart from broad-GRANITE GIRL casting, she said: "Preferably mountains, then hills—bare hills. I'm a great granite girl."

"MOUTHPIECE" (Lyttelton) is anxious to have "as much information as you can give me about Harry James, the trumpeter."

This request reminds me of a timid young man who visited New Zealand with a travelling variety show a few years ago, and blushingly admitted that

Open Microphone

he was the "hottest trumpeter that ever threw a lip around a mouthpiece. And who TOUGH LIP should bave known better?

James, I think, would have been amused at that one.

James (right) was born in Albany, Georgia, in 1916. His father was Everette James, musical director of the Haag Circus and one of the most renowned of circus bandmasters. A year later the Christy Brothers' Circus engaged James Sen., and for the next 13 years Harry toured the country with his parents. He learnt to play the drums and to do a contortionist act which earned him the bill-name of the "Human Eel." When he was eight Harry took lessons from his father on the cornet and soon joined the circus band. A year later he took all the

trumpet solo parts, and at the age of 12 he was leading a band of his own. Such early and vigorous training in which he had to play loud and fast circus tunes is responsible, no doubt, for the tough lip and amazing technique he developed. Even top trumpeters of modern times have often had bad spells of lip trouble; but not James.

Eventually he joined Ben Pollack, who is credited with having started more young musicians on the way to nameband success than any other leader. When he achieved fame James revolutionised trumpet style, and is still a firstclass musician. He is known particularly well in New Zealand for his recordings of "Flight of the Bumble Bee" and "Chiribiribim," which became best sellers.

"| WOULD be grateful indeed if you would inform me of the story behind the Natoma 'Dagger Dance,' writes G. A. Southen, of Napier.



The text of the opera Natoma is by Joseph D. Redding, and the music is by Victor Herbert, When

DAGGERS FOR in Act II, the usual operatic cloak and dagger business reaches a certain point, there is a dance, the "Panuelo," a dance of declaration, in which each man places his hat on the

head of the girl he loves. One girl gaily flicks her lover's hat into the crowd. The incensed owner demands that she shall dance with him the fiery "dagger dance." He plunges his dagger into the ground and dares any girl to throw another beside it. Then, to a wild, barbaric rhythm begins the now famous "Dagger Dance."

Natoma was first produced by the Philadelphia-Chicago Opera Company at the Metropolitan Opera House, Philadelphia, in 1911. The scene is California and the period is under the Spanish regime, 1820. John McCormack took the tenor role of Paul Merrill, Lieutenant of the U.S. Brig Liberty.

"A STUDENT OF THE VIOLIN" (Mokotoa, Invercargill): (a) Sir Malcolm Sargent, aged 59, is one of the outstanding figures in the musical life of Britain. He is an active man-here, there and everywhere. He probably makes more train

CONDUCTOR AND journeys than LEADER many commercial travellers. He be-

came a conductor by accident. The conductor who was to have taken charge of a rehearsal of The Gondoliers did not turn up. Sargent took his place and has. as it were, been on the rostrum ever since. He claims that the technique of conducting is simple. There are only two instruments in the orchestra which are easier, he says-the cymbals and the triangle. He explains his power over an orchestra thus: "Complete concentration. This means that one must be unselfconscious. A person who is unselfconscious always attracts attention. Another thing is sincerity. If a person is convinced of what he tells you, he will make an impression on you." Sir Malcolm Sargent is slim, wiry, with black glossy hair and dapper in dress. By day



THE CAST of the serial "The Burtons of Banner Street," now going round some of the NZBS stations. Left to right, Nan Summers (Win Mitchell), Morris West (producer), Robert Peach (John Burton), Phillip Jones (scriptwriter), Patricia Kennedy (Mary Burton), David Reid (Alec Burton), Myles Wright (Phillip Henderson) and John Morgan (Paul Burton)