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N.P.S. photograph

YOU might expect the ambitions of a successful and rising singer to be bounded by the bright lights and the broadcasting studio, but when an *Open Microphone* reporter talked to Pauline Ashby the other day it was discovered that one of her big interests is social work. Right now she's working as a typist with a big Petone firm, but she still hopes she may find her way into some sort of welfare work—perhaps, by way of her interest in Maori and the Maoris, into Maori welfare work. "I wanted to get a job with UNRRA, but I was too young for that," she said. "I've always been interested in that sort of thing. When I was in Korea early last year I saw something of the problem of homeless refugees and children, and I would have liked to get into a job where I could help them." One thing Miss Ashby did at that time was visit the graves of New Zealanders killed in the fighting in Korea, and write to their next-of-kin when she returned to New Zealand. "I would like very much to work with young people," she said. "I did a little coaching with sport at my old school in Petone when I was working full time at the Cabaret, and I enjoyed that very much." Another of her interests is a Maritime Club, where for a number of years she has helped as a hostess with the entertaining of crews of visiting ships.

Miss Ashby, who is being heard in several of the Henry Rudolph programmes, *With a Smile and a Song*,

Open Microphone

which the YA stations are broadcasting on Wednesday nights, was born and has lived all her life in Petone. She started singing first with small bands, both in Wellington and the Hutt Valley. Her first big job was at the Majestic Cabaret, in Wellington, where, for about 18 months, she sang three nights a week and at times every night of the week. Broadcasts from the cabaret also gave her her first experience in radio work. Since then she has done a variety of work both on and off the air. Her association with Henry Rudolph shows goes back two and a half years, and just now she is kept busy with rehearsals three nights a week for the coming Wellington production of *The Desert Song*, with Mr. Rudolph as musical director.

Much camp concert work at Linton made Pauline Ashby a specially suitable choice for the second Korea Concert Party, which went away about 18 months ago. "Yes, it was a very interesting trip," she agreed. "But it was no pleasure jaunt—we all worked very hard." She was pleased to find that her Maori numbers were well received by Maori servicemen in Korea, and since this has been her experience also with these numbers elsewhere, she is now giving more attention to her Maori work and is learning the language. "I learned the basis of my Maori singing at the Ngati Poneke Club with the late Kingi Tahiri," she told us.

In such spare time as she has Miss Ashby enjoys the outdoor life, which for her includes skiing at Ruapehu. Had she any other ambitions? She laughed at that one. "Well, I'd have liked to be a dramatic soprano," she said, "but I'm a contralto, so I can't do much about it, can I?"

IT all started in 1948. Station 2YZ, looking round for new ideas, decided to start a monthly variety show by local artists, with audience participation. There was nothing unique in the idea, but it was new for Hawke's Bay, and from the very first *Curtain Call* "caught on," both with listeners and audiences in the Studio.

To begin with, the programme lasted thirty minutes, but soon there was a demand for more, and so the show was extended to one hour. From the Studio,

it was just a step to a theatre performance, and *Curtain Call* made its first bow before the footlights on October 1, 1949, in the Napier Municipal Theatre—to a full house. That performance assured the future of the show, and so besides the monthly Studio programme, there has been a full dress show in the theatre each year, with an aggregate profit of £1216, which has been passed on to various worthy causes. So far, all these performances have been held in Napier, but on August 28 the show will be presented in Hastings. Station 2YZ has invited Jean MacPherson (vocalist) and Norm Cummings (piano) to come up from Wellington, as guest artists, and they will be heard with the best of Hawke's Bay entertainers. The programme will be broadcast by Station 2YZ, beginning at 8.0 p.m.

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MARGARET ISAAC has been 2ZA's

Shopping Reporter since the session began at that Station on March 1 this year. Getting the job, she says, was a break she'd been looking for. Four



years ago she was working in a solicitor's office in Gisborne when Prudence Gregory, at that time 2XG's Shopping Reporter, persuaded her to apply for the position of receptionist at 2XG.

(continued on next page)



BROTHERS and sisters all, this group must be one of Dunedin's most harmonious families. Marie, aged 18, has her A.T.C.L., and arranges all the music; Pauline, 16, plays the violin and guitar; Johnny, the 14-year-old trumpeter, aims to be another Ken Smith; Brian, 13, plays the clarinet and saxophone; and Michael, 9, shown at the drums in our picture, plays the cymbals. Seven-year-old Billy is also in the picture, playing with the cymbals. The youthful group is augmented by the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Francis, who play the drums and the string bass respectively. The Francis children will be heard from 4.15 p.m. on Saturday, August 28, and the whole family group in a full studio performance on Sunday, September 12, at 6.30 p.m.

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