

STAR FROM THE MET.

MANY stars of New York's famed Metropolitan Opera have reached the top through the Met's annual "Auditions of the Air." Singers from all over the United States compete, and the winners are awarded contracts



FRANCES GREER

(continued from previous page)

offensive person from my sight this instant." Charlie trembled with rage.

Mrs. Breen drew back in sudden alarm: she had never goaded him quite so successfully before. Wisely deciding that perhaps she had gone far enough for one day, she and her trundler withdrew, at a dignified pace. But at a safe distance she turned for the last word: "No gumption," she called. "Just a lot of lazy old sunbabies!"

Charlie did not reply.

From the doorway of his shop Jack said, "You really told her off, eh?"

Charlie searched his expression for a smile, found none.

"Sunbabies!" he spat. "Good God! Tell me, Jack, do I look like a blasted sunbabe to you?"

Jack said seriously, "Can't say you do, Charlie." Then, adroitly changing the subject, "Who's your clobber?"

The young fellow at the end of the seat had not shifted his position; in fact, only the shallow breath movements showed he was still alive.

"Blast him," Charlie growled. "Pinched my seat. Can't even watch the ants now. When you get on a bit and not so good at moving around," he explained, "you get interested in little things. Take old Alf; he should be along soon. He makes things out of used matches—little toys and all. Doesn't do his eyes much good, but keeps his mind busy. Now if this bloke wasn't there, I'd be at my hobby." He scowled fiercely, and tugged at his moustache.

with the company. One such winner is Frances Greer (below) who now regularly sings leading roles in such operas as *Faust*, *Madam Butterfly*, *La Traviata*, the *Marriage of Figaro*. Miss Greer is soon to be heard from Commercial stations in a new series of half-hour programmes entitled *Musicland*. She joins with the brilliant young American baritone Earl Wrightson to bring listeners top tunes from musical comedy and operetta. There will be selections from *Oklahoma*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Brigadoon*, *The King and I*, *The Student Prince* and *Mexican Hayride*, among others. The orchestra and chorus is that of Alfredo Antonini (recently heard in *Music by Antonini*). Other singers to be heard include Thomas Hayward, tenor, Eugenie Baird, Virginia Haskins and Elaine Malbin.

Earl Wrightson, who is host for the show, started in radio as a page-boy for one of the big broadcasting networks about 10 years ago, and has now become one of America's leading singers on the air and on the stage. The tenor Thomas Hayward has been a member of the Met since 1945. He began his musical career as violinist, then switched to singing.

Originally broadcast in the United States by the CBS network, *Musicland* comes to NZBS listeners by courtesy of the Voice of America. It will be broadcast by all ZB stations and 2ZA at 7.30 p.m. on Sundays, beginning September 5.

"Young pup," he muttered. "Wait till I tell the others about his damn cheek."

"Here's the bus," Jack said.

Sure enough, the orange bus was bowling along towards them.

"Do you think he's waiting for it?"

"I'm sure he is," Charlie replied grimly. "This will be a pleasure."

He hauled his great, straight length upright, and, leaning heavily on his stick, limped to the other end of the seat. He shook the young man's shoulder firmly.

"Bus," he roared in the offender's ear. "Wake up, bus!"

The young man's expression altered, but his eyes remained as they were.

"Thank you," he yawned. "Dozed off." He groped at his side, and from beneath the drape of his tweed coat produced a white stick.

Charlie looked at it blankly for a moment; the bus squealed to a halt beside them.

"Here," he said, "let me help you on."

"I'm all right," the other insisted; but he allowed Charlie to propel him, with great care, to the steps of the bus.

"Thank you very much," he said, "I'll be all right now."

He climbed the two steps easily, bought his ticket, and groped his way into a seat. The bus drew away.

"You're welcome any time," Charlie yelled after it. He sat down in the corner seat, and looked at the frenzied ants.

"Blast!" he said angrily.

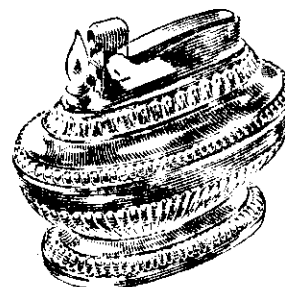
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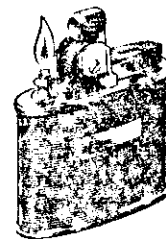
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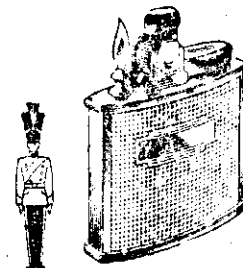


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