

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS, ON AND OFF THE RECORD

Bing Crosby is in the voice. Home for Liberace, his mother and brother, is a beautiful, multi-storied new house in Royal Oaks, California. It has a swimming-pool—shaped like a grand piano, of course.

WHEN Mary Scott went to live in the backblocks, she thought that hoggets were little pigs and that sheep farming meant putting some sheep in a paddock and waiting for them to multiply. Enlightenment came quickly, but not disillusion. Today, after more than 30



years of farm life, Mrs. Scott is still writing of it with zest. Listeners to the *Women's Hour* from commercial stations will soon be able to hear some of her stories in her *Journal of a Backblocks Wife*. Descended from George Clarke, a Protector of Aborigines in early North Auckland, Mrs. Scott was born at the Bay of Islands and educated at Auckland. She graduated M.A. from Auckland University College, winning first-class honours in English, and the University's Tinline Scholarship. She was a schoolteacher for two years before marrying Walter Scott, and going to live on what was then only partly-developed land near Te Awamutu. Her adaptation to country life and its vicissitudes has provided the stimulus for much writing both for publication and for radio. She is the author of the *Barbara Books*, of a number of one-act plays, and of several novels. The latest of these, *Breakfast at Six*, has run into three editions so far. As a writer and farmer's wife and mother of four, Mrs.



N.Z. COMPOSER

Terence Vaughan

DURING the war thousands of New Zealand troops became familiar with the face and name of Terence Vaughan when he was Musical Director and Producer of the Kiwi Troop Entertainment Group. He became even more widely known after the war when the ever-popular "Kiwis" toured New Zealand and Australia under his direction for several years. From 1950 his work in radio programmes as conductor of the 2YA Studio Orchestra, and his appearances as guest conductor with the National Orchestra, brought him recognition as one of the leading musical figures of this country—though, in point of fact, he is now living and working in Melbourne.

But although his talents as a producer, pianist, conductor and composer of clever novelties have been appreciated by many, his capabilities as a serious composer are often overlooked. In 1934 he attended the Royal Academy of Music in London, where he concentrated particularly on conducting and composition. Besides winning several of the composition prizes awarded by the Academy, he has also won several prizes in this country, the most notable being that offered by the NZBS in 1949 for a setting to the Royal Ode, *The Stream and the Discovery*, written by Ruth France.

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Spencer Digby photograph

Terence Vaughan also won the prize in a competition conducted by the Wellington Chamber Music Society for a chamber work by a New Zealand composer. This was the trio *Dialectic*, a work for violin, cello and piano, which is currently being heard in the series *Music by New Zealand Composers*. It will be heard from 3YC and 2YC at 7.0 p.m. and 7.55 p.m. respectively, on Monday, September 6. The players are Ruth Pearl (violin), Marie Vandewart (cello) and Dorothy Davies (piano).

Scott is kept very busy indeed, but she finds time for breeding dogs as a special hobby, and for reading and taking an interest in "practically everything."

Journal of a Backblocks Wife will be broadcast first in the *Women's Hour* from 2ZA on Monday, September 6, and later from the ZB stations and 1XH. The talks will be read by Valerie Spencer.

Answer to Correspondent

R. L. Walton (Auckland): The Queen's Hall Light Orchestra and the Melodi Light Orchestra are controlled by the same publishing firm. The former has not been appearing in record catalogues lately, but whether it has been superseded by the Melodi Light Orchestra is not known here.

Old Friend, New Acquaintance

HERE are two BBC singing stars who represent the old and the new in British broadcasting. The attractive lass is 21-year-old Alma Cogan, now of *Take It From Here*, and she is accompanied by Flotsam of the well-loved Flotsam and Jetsam partnership. Flotsam is the *nom de radio* of B. C. Hilliam, who has been heard recently by British listeners recalling his memories of show business. In a series of programmes called *Follow On*, he introduced numerous guest artists like Alma Cogan to show that the old traditions are still maintained. B. C. Hilliam sang tenor with the late Malcolm McEachern (bass) when they established their classic partnership in 1926. They went on the halls, then into broadcasting, and became famous on records. B. C. Hilliam is a Canadian who played the piano for the team and also wrote nearly all their songs.

When Alma Cogan left her convent school she had developed a talent for drawing and design, which made selecting a career no problem. She would, her parents thought, make an excellent dress designer. But Alma was keen on singing, and when a friend put her in a variety show at Brighton as a singing act she decided to abandon her drawing board in favour of the footlights. She was then 15. A year later she got a job in the chorus of the West End musical comedy, *High Button Shoes*. Another member of that chorus was Audrey Hepburn.

After the BBC programme *Gently Bentley* (in which Alma Cogan was one of Dick Bentley's two singing girl friends) ended, Alma was swamped with offers. She took on too many engagements and suffered from severe throat trouble. However, she recovered, and has, according to reports, gone on to even greater success in *TIFH* and on recordings. Dark-eyed, dark-haired and still single, she lives with her mother in a Kensington flat almost within singing distance of the flat occupied by the other new *TIFH* girl, June Whitfield.

BBC photograph

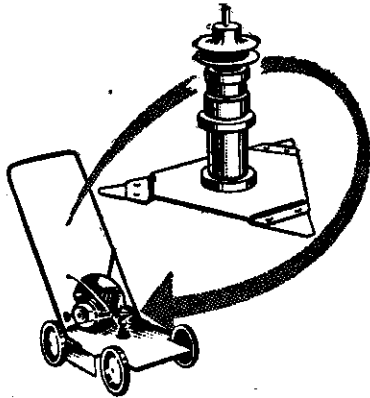
The WORLD'S BIGGEST SONG HITS

- "OH MY PAPA"
(The Song that has Swept the World)
- "IF YOU LOVE ME"
(I WON'T CARE)
- "BELL BOTTOM BLUES"
- "I REALLY DON'T
WANT TO KNOW"
- "RIVER OF NO RETURN"
- "GOD'S LITTLE CANDLES"
- "TILL WE TWO ARE ONE"
- "SWEDISH RHAPSODY"
- "A DEAR JOHN LETTER"
(The Latest Craze)
- "GOT YOU ON MY MIND"
- "ROBE OF CALVARY"
- "EBBTIDE" "BUTTERFLIES"
- "QUEEN OF EVERYONE'S HEART"
- "ISTANBUL" "EH CUMPARI"
- "BRIDGE OF SIGHS"

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