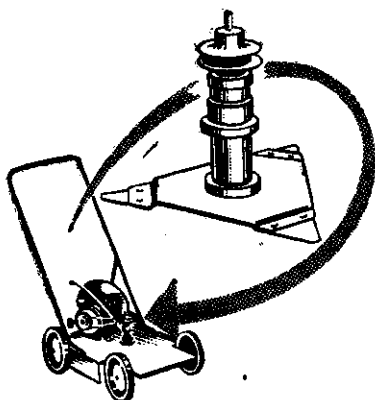


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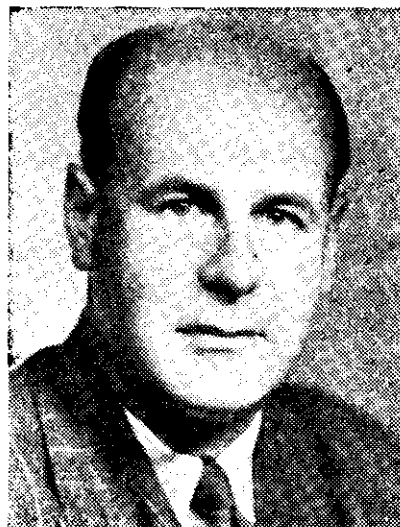
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Spencer Digby photograph

**"THIS** is Professor Shelley speaking. We would like you to go to Japan to open a radio station for the troops there." To Ulric Williams, working as a bank clerk at Napier in 1946 ("I hated the bank, too," he says now) these telephoned words from the then Director of Broadcasting in Wellington came as a complete surprise. He caught the next train to the capital, and soon found that his two and a half years of A.E.W.S. work in Fiji during the war had not been forgotten by the Army Department. When the Army and the NZBS put their heads together over the question of providing radio entertainment for J Force, Ulric Williams was the man they thought could do the job best. Ulric got back into uniform and was soon officer in charge of Station WLKW Yamaguchi, giving daily programmes of entertainment and news for

# Open Microphone

New Zealanders in the British Occupation Zone.

When WLKW closed down six months later Ulric Williams came back to New Zealand and was given the job of starting the NZBS shortwave service, Radio New Zealand. This service began broadcasting to the Pacific Islands with the call-sign ZL3 and ZL4 on September 27, 1947, the 40th anniversary of Dominion Day. Ulric Williams has remained as officer-in-charge until the present time.

But that is only one aspect of his broadcasting work. He is probably better known to the public at large for his comedy roles in such variety shows as *One Minute, Please* (which was recently heard from 2YA), and the earlier *Time to Sing and Wizards of Quiz*. He also has a strong interest in Maori music and he arranged a series of programmes called *Song and Story of the Maori*, which Radio New Zealand has broadcast weekly ever since it started. It has proved so popular that it is now being heard on some local stations as well. Then as organiser and compère of camp concerts he has become known to each new batch of 18-year-olds as they have been called up for service. Over the past two years an important part of his work has been the formation of concert parties for Korea. Five parties have been sent from New Zealand in that time, and he is at present busy organising a sixth. He went personally to Korea with the second concert party, in 1952, and in September of the following year he went to England on board an R.N.Z.A.F. Hastings as NZBS representative in the London-Christchurch Air Race. In December of that year he became one of the two producers (the other was J. B. MacFarlane) who helped organise the NZBS broadcasts of the

Royal Tour. And last month he accompanied the Ministerial mission to the Cook Islands, where he took down on a tape recorder (he filled 20 tapes with island music and interviews with local personalities) enough material for a lengthy feature programme about New Zealand's often forgotten Dependency. This week the NZBS is saying goodbye to Ulric Williams, as he goes to a senior executive position in the business world outside broadcasting. But although the NZBS is losing him his name may still be heard over the air in future, because since that memorable day in Napier eight years ago broadcasting has got into his blood.

★

A SPRY seventy-year-old is the author of the "Napoleon Bonaparte" stories from which the current feature *Ininja the Avenger* (see page 23) is adapted. Arthur W. Upfield migrated from England to Australia as a youth. A thirst

for adventure drove him outback, to jobs as various as mule-driving at

MATILDA Momba on the Darling River, camel-driving, opal-mining and gold prospecting. A roamer by nature, he humped his swag all over the continent, absorbing its colour and atmosphere, meeting the men and women who were later to be featured in his novels. The aboriginal detective, Napoleon Bonaparte, for instance, is eighty per cent based on a half-caste he met, the son of a station owner. This aboriginal was also university-educated and wholly civilised. City life is Arthur Upfield's aversion, and he never feels comfortable in city clothes. He is a typical bushman in appearance and disposition. Nowadays he spends eight months of the year at his home at Airey's Inlet, a remote spot on the Victorian coast, with the bushland at his back and the ocean spread out before him.

Arthur Upfield

Two of Arthur Upfield's fast-moving mystery novels have been put out by Penguin Books. His fluent, easy style has brought him world-wide popularity and the lacing of aboriginal lore in the stories gives them a quality unique in detective fiction.

★

VAL GRIFFITH'S greatest asset is probably enthusiasm, whether she applies it to her daily shopping session at Radio 2XN, Nelson, to her Hunt session on Wednesday, her Children's Session on Fridays, or to her outdoor hobbies. Her greatest ambition? To land an eight-pound trout after playing him in the Wangapeka River in the back-blocks of Nelson. But for all her tramping, shooting and fishing excursions Val admits she loves cooking and new hats and frocks.

When she left school Val Griffith went to the *Nelson Evening Mail* as general editorial staff rouseabout, then she worked in the cable sub-editor's room for most of the war years. In 1946 she joined the staff of the Amalgamated Press in London as a sub-editor on one



VISITORS to 4YZ Invercargill have commented on two attractive murals recently added to the decoration of the large concert studio. A. M. Miller, the artist, who has been a staff announcer at 4YZ for several years, possesses an enviable ability in poster design, lettering and calligraphy. A serious war-time aircraft accident while he was with the 75 N.Z. Bomber Squadron of the R.A.F. gave Angus Miller a very long spell in hospital in England, and while he was recuperating he had the chance to attend both the Slade and St. Martin's Schools of Art in London. The influence of this training and his considerable enthusiasm is reflected in the murals he has just completed and in his other similar work.