

## NEWS OF BROADCASTERS. ON AND OFF THE RECORD

public as a Safety Consultant. As an Industrial Safety Officer with the Department of Labour he is concerned with the vital problem of safety and health in industry, and is conducting Dominion-wide campaigns in connection with this work. He is a former scholarship student at the Trinity College of Music, where his instrument was the double-bass, and for some years he was a professional musician in England. His conducting work has included deputising for Terry Vaughan, in the days when he was a member of the old 2YA Studio Orchestra. Harry Botham has three children, all girls, and is a keen cricketer.

**DORA ALACK**, formerly Dora Deal, was well known as a broadcasting and concert violinist in Christchurch



**DORA ALACK**

before the war. As a foundation member of the Laurian Club, VIOLIN AND PIANO (founded by Harold Beck (later principal 'cellist of the famed Hallé Orchestra), she had an early insight into



BBC photograph

In honour of Dame Sybil Thorndike's 50th stage anniversary last June, distinguished artists took part in a special performance of Clemence Dane's version of "King Henry VIII" which was broadcast in the BBC Home Service. From left to right are Ralph Truman as Henry VIII; Dame Sybil Thorndike as Queen Katharine; Russell Thorndike (brother of Dame Sybil) as Gardiner, Bishop of Winchester; and Sir Ralph Richardson as Cardinal Wolsey. Others taking part were Sir Laurence Olivier as the Porter; Paul Scofield as the Duke of Norfolk; and Robert Donat as Cranmer. Dame Sybil Thorndike and her husband, Sir Lewis Casson, are at present visiting New Zealand.

## N.Z. COMPOSER

### Ernest Jenner

[F Ernest Jenner's work as a teacher of music is better known than his work as a composer, it may be because he was a teacher before he was a musician. As a youngster he couldn't overcome his parents' objection to a musical career, and they sent him to a teachers' college from which he went into the schools for seven years. Then he threw teaching overboard for his music—studying by day at the Matthay School and earning his living by playing in theatre orchestras at night. His career as a New Zealand musician was the result of a bicycle ride. One day in the 1920s he was on holiday in the country when one of his students (he had taken to giving piano lessons then to eke out his income) bicycled out to see him, carrying an advertisement from the London Times for the position of lecturer in music at Wellington Training College. From there he went to Christchurch Training College, where he continued to lecture until his recent retirement.

In the current series of *Music by New Zealand Composers*, listeners are able to hear the composer at the piano playing his "Jubilate Deo," which was specially written to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, and the suite "Three Old Dance Forms." His song cycle for baritone and piano, "Three Songs of Thomas Campion," is also included, with Winston Sharp as the singer. This programme will be broad-

chamber music. Playing with string groups for such visiting artists as Percy Grainger and Florence Austral, or broadcasting sonatas with Ernest Jenner, were all in the day's work for her. Mrs. Alack is now on the teaching staff of the Nelson School of Music, and now, too (following an absence of some years), she is playing again in the time left to her after attending to the unbounded energies of her two children. With Thelma Robinson she will play



cast from 2YZ at 2.15 p.m. on Sunday, October 17. Ernest Jenner's text books on *Musical Training in Schools* have been widely accepted, and it isn't surprising that several of his compositions have been choral works. His cantatas *La Belle Dame Sans Merci* and *Garden of Hesperides* have both been publicly performed. Recently he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music, an honour which had only three times before been bestowed on a New Zealander.

Dvorak's Sonatina for Violin and Piano from Station 2XN at 9.4 p.m. on Sunday, October 17.

"WHATEVER happens, viewers are going to see a new Joy Nichols," the former *TIFH* star said shortly before her reappearance in London the other day in a TV show with Tommy Trinder at the National Radio Show at Earl's Court. In July of last year Joy suddenly walked out of her *TIFH* contract, taking with her Roberta, her 18-months-old daughter, and her American-born husband Wally Petersen. She told listeners she was leaving because "No one will give Wally any work. How can our marriage be a success when we hear the jibe, 'There goes Mr. Joy Nichols.' We've got to get straightened out, and Australia is the place to do it." But after only 12 appearances in an Australian revue Joy had a nervous collapse. The trio moved on to New York, but there Joy came up against difficulties over a working permit. A few weeks ago she arrived back in England, leaving her husband behind in New York to study American TV techniques so that he could come over later to work as a TV producer. Joy now plans to make a musical comedy appearance, and this will be followed by a new TV series which her old script-writers, Muir and Norden, have written for her. But it's unlikely that she will ever again appear in *Take It From Here*.

### Answer to Correspondent

B. E. Talbot (Wellington): The band that recorded "Hesitating Blues" was Muggsy Spanier and his Ragtimers, comprising Muggsy Spanier (cornet), Irving Fazola (clarinet), Vern Brown (trombone), Nick Calazza (tenor saxophone), Dave Bowman (piano), Jack Kelleher (bass), K. Broadhurst (guitar) and D. Carter (drums).

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