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Spencer Digby photograph

"**D**ID you know that wallabies are a menace in South Canterbury and Otago?" Joy Rogers asked us recently. Joy is in charge of the current events session, *The World We Live In*, which is heard in the *Broadcasts to Schools* programmes at 1.45 p.m. every Monday. In this programme she usually has a guest speaker to talk about such subjects as "Antarctic Expedition," "Myxomatosis," "Wing Flapping Aeroplanes," "Is the World Getting Warmer?" "Oil from Persia," or "Wallaby Control." It was her work on the last-named, over which she had just been pondering with an officer of the Department of Internal Affairs, that prompted her remark to us.

Joy Rogers has been a member of the *Broadcasts to Schools* section of the NZBS for over two years. Although she is a Hastings girl "born and bred," she first came to Wellington to attend the Wellington Teachers' Training College. Subsequently she returned home for several years, when she completed her L.T.C.L. and L.R.S.M. She then came back to Wellington and took up her present position. In addition to her work for *Broadcasts to Schools* she helps in the

Open Microphone

production of programmes for the Children's Sessions, auditioning, scheduling, and reading and reporting on scripts. Each year she writes a number of scripts herself, and she is at present working on an adaptation of the children's book, *A Boy in the Cloud*, by Marghanita Fanchiotti. She also helps to prepare the booklets issued each year for use in schools with T. J. Young's "Singing Lesson with Studio Class," which is heard every Thursday in the *Broadcasts to Schools*. This involves working alongside School Publications and the Government Printer.

One of the best experiences which Joy remembers from her work is the time she persuaded children from the Kelburn School to send in questions to Sir Edmund Hillary and George Lowe, shortly after they returned from the successful Everest expedition. The two mountaineers were each given a list of the questions, and placed on either side of a microphone to answer them together. The resulting programme was so successful that it was later broadcast for adult listeners, too. On another occasion she had to organise an anniversary programme on the Girl Guide movement. She went up to the 2YA studios to meet the girls who were to take part in the programme—expecting to find a dozen or so—and was actually greeted by about 150 blue-uniformed youngsters. "But the programme was really quite a good one," she said. "We packed them all into the big studio and the resulting volume of sound as they sang their songs created a very pleasant mass effect." In her spare time, incidentally, Joy is a keen badminton player, and she also makes all her own clothes.

★

WHEN he came back to New Zealand for a few months last year, Alan Rowe, of Woodville, was lucky enough to take the leading role of Napoleon's uncrowned son in an NZBS production of *L'Aiglon*, the play Edmond Rostand wrote for the great Sarah Bernhardt. The radio adaptation will be broadcast for the first time from 3YC this week

(see page 7). Alan Rowe is not new to broadcasting in this country. He began work under Bernard Beeby in 1945, taking part in, among other programmes, *Richelieu, Cardinal or King?* He toured New Zealand in 1947-48 with Ronald



ALAN ROWE
He plays Napoleon's son

Forrt, and Gabriel Toyne's New Zealand Theatre Company, and went to England in 1948, joining the Ipswich Arts Council. After four years serving in various theatres, including the Arts Council Midland Theatre Company, the Playhouse, Sheffield, and St. Martin's Theatre, London (where he played in *Twice Upon a Time*), he joined Sir Barry Jackson's Birmingham Repertory Theatre. Here he played Somerset in the successful production of the three parts of Shakespeare's *Henry VI*, which was subsequently put on also at the Old Vic Theatre, London.

He came back home at the end of last year to revisit his mother, and during this time, in addition to playing the lead in *L'Aiglon*, he took part in *Beginners, Act One*, and *The Life and Times of Buddha*. On his return to England he took part in *The Love of Four Colonels*, and *The Deep Blue Sea* for the New Malvern Company. He then rejoined the Birmingham Repertory Company and has just concluded playing Lysimachus in *Pericles, Prince of Tyre*. He has also done considerable broadcasting with the BBC since returning to England. Bernard Beeby regards Alan Rowe as "a good boy with a lot of promise. He's the type of fellow who will learn as he goes on," he told us.

★

IN a recent despatch from New York, the columnist Don Iddon reported that Liberace, "the marcel-waved toothsome pianist whose following grows and grows," will make a series of films for Warner Bros. The studio claims that Liberace's hold on American women is as great as Valentino's was. "I doubt this," Iddon added, but he conceded that Liberace's fan mail was probably the biggest in show business today. The pianist comes from Milwaukee, and is 34. In addition to his recordings and concert appearances, he has recently made a big name for himself as a TV performer, and has earned enormous fees for perform-



DON PONDER, baritone (at right), receives a prize-winning cheque from J. W. Griffiths, Station Manager at 12B, on the last night of the Station's annual radio talent quest held recently in the Auckland Town Hall. Joe Marvin, guitarist, and Ken Lowan, harmonica player (on Mr. Griffiths's left) shared first prize with Mr. Ponder