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N.P.S. photograph

A YOUNG lady who is making a "come-back" is Rona Cuthill, the new Women's Session organiser at 1XN, Whangarei. It isn't quite a "come-back" in the usual sense of the word, because Rona is no faded personality. Rather it indicates that here's a young person who has won a New Zealand Government

OFF TO WHANGAREI Bursary, studied in London at the Central School of Speech and Drama, and been happy to come back to her country to give us the benefit of what she has learnt during her scholarship years.

Rona Cuthill comes from Invercargill and was educated at Craighead Diocesan School, Timaru, and Canterbury University College. While she was at Canterbury she began to develop her great interest in the theatre and naturally joined the C.U.C. Drama Society, which was then directed by Ngaio Marsh. At that time, too, she became a Fellow of Trinity College, London, in Speech, and had radio experience at Station 3YA. After graduating she

Open Microphone

migrated northwards to the post-graduate section of Auckland Teachers' Training College, where she tried her hand at producing plays. Much more theatre experience brought her the coveted Bursary, and 1952 found Rona in London studying production and teaching. Now she is back and hopes that her training will stand her in good stead as friend and adviser to the women of Northland.

★

JUST a week or so ago we heard that Leary Constantine, the 50-year-old West Indian cricketer and welfare worker, had qualified as a barrister. He is going back to Trinidad after 30 years in Britain, and plans to specialise in criminal law. Constantine was one of the greatest all-rounders that cricket has produced, and he talks about his experiences in three BBC

CRICKET CHARACTERS

talks called *Cricketing Characters*, which start from 4YZ at 6.0 p.m. on Sunday, December 19. First of all he talks about what he calls "the rarer art of bowling," and recalls the style and character of some great Test bowlers such as "Tich" Freeman, George Francis and Clarrie Grimmet. On the batting side Constantine says that techniques haven't changed much since the days of W. G. Grace. The difference between the English and Australian approach, he thinks, lies in the attempt of the English to bring the game within the concept of one of the exact sciences. His anecdotes include one about Alec Bedser and Sir Donald Bradman and the latter's son. In his third talk Constantine talks about cricket's spectators, and mentions some of the characters familiar to professional cricketers the world over. Finally, Constantine, who first played for the West Indies in Test cricket in 1923, has a modest word for his cricketing listeners. "You who watch cricket are just as important as the most famous players," he says.

EDMUNDO ROS, the popular exponent of Latin-American music whose recordings are top favourites among NZBS listeners, may take part with his famous Orchestra in a big German musical film, according to a report in *Melody Maker*. Edmundo was said to



EDMUNDO ROS
A film for Germany

have agreed to the plans in principle and was to discuss them in more detail when he returned to London after his five-week season at the National Sporting Club, Monte Carlo. The film would probably be made in Munich, but the

CHICKA-BOOM CHICK

sound would be recorded in London. Edmundo has also been offered a return engagement at the National Sporting Club next summer, and will appear at the Chelsea Arts Ball, at the Albert Hall, London, on New Year's Eve for the fifth successive year. His usual haunt is London's well-known Coconut Grove.

★

BBC Play Wins Italia Prize★

THE BBC has this year won the International Italia Prize with its production of *Under Milk Wood*, by the late Dylan Thomas (left), according to a report just received. *Under Milk Wood* was Thomas's last and most important work for radio. It is a richly-imaginative tale describing life in a small Welsh coast town, beginning on a "moonless night, starless and Bible-black," and closing when night darkens the streets again. During these 24 hours a gallery of magnificently diverse characters, vivid with a life that is unmistakably Welsh, fill the air with their dreams and realities, their lusts and longings, their gossipings, strivings and defeats, in kitchens, bedrooms, "The Sailor's Arms" and the dusky wood.

In the spring of 1947 Dylan Thomas conceived the idea of a radio work for the BBC written partly in verse and partly in prose. He finally completed it a few days before he left England for America in October, 1953, and gave three public readings of the script in New York before he died there on November 9, 1953. *Under Milk Wood* was produced in the BBC's Third Programme last January by Douglas Cleverdon. Its entirely Welsh cast included the film star Richard Burton, and the songs were set by Daniel Jones, the Welsh composer who was a life-long friend of Thomas. *Under Milk Wood* was acclaimed everywhere as a radio masterpiece, and the broadcast was repeated several times on the Home Service. BBC Transcriptions of it recently arrived for broadcast in this country.

Dylan Thomas was born and educated at Swansea, in South Wales. Dr. Edith Sitwell said of his first book that he had "created an idiom: he had disturbed the roots of our language in an organic way and given it a new vitality." His reputation as a master of English poetry seems likely to rest on the poems in *Deaths and Entrances* and *In Country Sleep*, which form the last section of his *Collected Poems*.

