

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS. ON AND OFF THE RECORD

Street before the war. He had been playing with the radio orchestras ever since, and for His Majesty's Theatre, The H. "The Messiah," and playing flute obbligatos for local and visiting singers.

THE Bob Bradford Quartet which is at present entertaining YA listeners on Wednesday nights with a new series of *Music for You*, is not the first group that Bob has got together. Listeners to the Canterbury Centennial broadcasts may remember the Bob Bradford Trio, which 3YA relayed from the Centennial Industries Fair in 1950.

MUSIC FOR YOU Bob had his introduction to radio work back in 1932, when he appeared with a six-piece orchestra. Some years later he toured the North Island with a band making stage, radio and dance appearances. After war service, he joined Martin Winiata's Orchestra as pianist,



BOB BRADFORD CORAL CUMMINS

but he is best known to listeners through his *Music for You* broadcasts, in which he leads his own group. Bob is assisted in the present series by Coral Cummins, who has been singing with him for a number of years, and Rod Derritt. Coral Cummins sang with several bands before she joined Martin Winiata, who helped to perfect her intonation and polished her style.



BBC photograph

Proms Soloist

ONE of the soloists at the Christchurch Promenade Concerts next week is the soprano Anita Ritchie (right), who will sing the recitative "And God Said" and the aria "With Verdure Clad," from Haydn's "The Creation," in the concert on Tuesday, February 8. (The broadcast begins from 3YC at 8.0 p.m.) Anita Ritchie has broadcast for a number of years from Christchurch stations, and took part as first soprano soloist in the Christchurch Civic Music Council's production of "Israel in Egypt" in 1949. She is the wife of John Ritchie, the well-known Christchurch conductor and composer.



WHEN Peter Dawson was 18, he worked as a lead-fitter in his father's iron works in Adelaide, earning 2/6 a week. In the same year he won the bass solo section at the Ballarat South Street Competition, and promptly spent the three guineas prize money in seeing the sights of Melbourne! Now in his 73rd year with over 50 years

FIFTY YEARS OF SONG of singing behind him, the veteran Australian baritone is making another extensive tour of Britain. His last Australian appearance before going overseas in November last was made at a Legacy concert in the Melbourne Town Hall, which netted £3000. The story of Peter Dawson's life is being told in *Fifty Years of Song*, a series being broadcast from Australian stations (shortwave listeners may pick them up at 11.45 p.m. on Tuesdays from stations of the ABC). Great moments in his career and famous celebrities he has met are recalled in interviews and dramatised episodes. Peter Dawson was born in Adelaide in 1882, and began singing with the choir of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. He gave his first oratorio performance in Handel's *Messiah* with the Adelaide Choral Society. "My sister

Jessie rehearsed my solos with me," Peter said recently when recalling those times. He can also remember his first public appearance made a little earlier—and without a dress suit—when he sang "O, Ruddier Than the Cherry" with the Adelaide Orchestra conducted by his teacher, C. J. Stevens. Peter Dawson last toured New Zealand in 1949.

"OUR leading emotional actress" was the phrase used by T. C. Worsley to describe Peggy Ashcroft when reviewing the recent revival of Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler* at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith. In this "brilliant and exciting" production, he said, Peggy Ashcroft gave a superb performance as Hedda. Peggy has also taken part in a number of plays for the

BBC, the most recent being a recorded performance by the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre Company of *Antony and Cleopatra*, in which she played opposite Michael Redgrave. In the current BBC series of poetry readings, *By Heart*, she reads Tennyson's poem "The Lady of Shalott" (1YC, 8.18 p.m., Wednesday, February 9). In the same programme, which is the fifth in the series, Valentine Dyall reads another Tennyson poem, "The Revenge: A Ballad of the Fleet," which the poet Laureate wrote nearly 50 years after "The Lady."

HOW easy it is for a radio writer or a journalist to make a simple mistake or omission—which reduces the point he is trying to get across to nonsense—is something we all learn by bitter experience. Even a

MILES OF PAPER writer as able and experienced as Jim Henderson can slip up. For instance, he was telling us recently how, in his talks on the new timber towns on the sunny side of the Lake Taupo area (see page 15) he mentioned that every year Kinleith manufactures enough brown paper to stretch from New Zealand to England and back again six times. It was not till the talks were all written that an NZBS man pointed out the meaninglessness of this remark unless you knew how wide the strip of paper was. It cost Jim the price of a telegram to Kinleith to find that the answer was ten feet.



Spencer Digby photo
JIM HENDERSON

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