

# NEWS OF BROADCASTERS. ON AND OFF THE RECORD

comedienne Anna Russell explained why she had departed so often from her advertised programmes, during her New Zealand tour. This had been done largely because of the many requests she had received for particular numbers, she said, adding, "I have done it myself, so please don't blame the broadcasting authorities."

IN a new series of programmes called *Won't You Come In?* (YA stations, Monday nights), Bill Austin invites listeners to hear some of his favourite recordings. Bill browses through his record collection, listening to this and that and talking about some of the artists he has seen overseas or who have visited New Zealand. He has, for instance, acquired an interesting pair of records of Yehudi Menuhin playing the same piece as a child prodigy and as a mature artist. In each programme he will feature a favourite old-timer and then a new LP recording of a familiar melody. This will be followed by a novelty—for instance, Sir

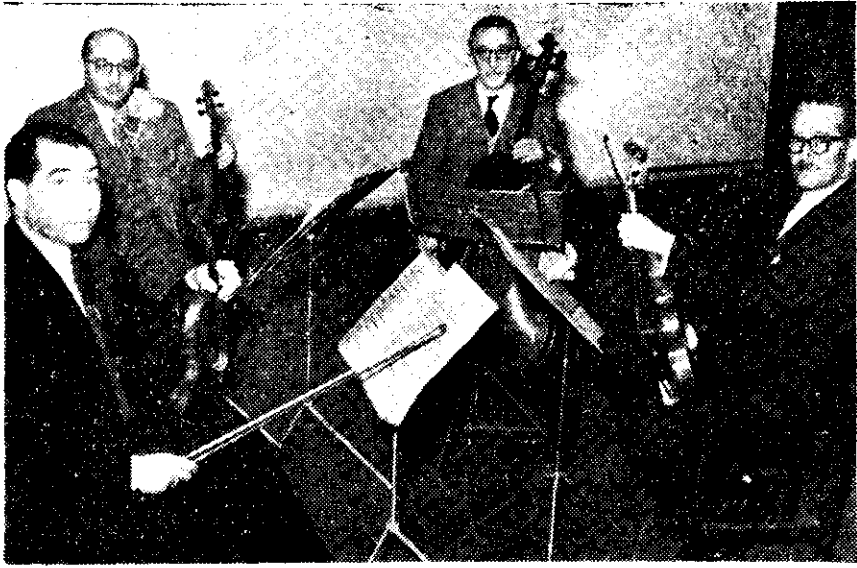


Spencer Digby  
Bill Austin Jack Dobson

Donald Bradman playing the piano with almost the same efficiency as he handled a cricket bat, or Gladys Watkins playing the Wellington Carillon bells. Then there's something from the theatre—Brainsby Williams as Scrooge, Cyril Ritchard singing a hilarious number called "The Oldest Chorus Boy in London," Noel Coward and Gertrude Lawrence, Jack Dobson, who produces the



Spencer Digby photograph



★ THE PASCAL QUARTET were photographed at Dunedin during their fast-moving New Zealand tour—which is taking them to many provincial towns as well as the main centres. Next Monday, May 9, they will be heard from 2XG, Gisborne, and on Wednesday, May 11, they will give the last of their Beethoven Quartet broadcasts from 1XH, Hamilton, and all YC stations. The players from left to right, are Jacques Dumont and Maurice Crut (violins), Robert Salles (cello) and Walter Gerhard (viola).

programmes, told us he spent three months ransacking old record collections held by the NZBS and in private hands throughout the country, to gather his material. There are 13 programmes in the series.

"WHEN my husband was invited to Otago University to lecture on new methods of treating burns I came along for a holiday," Vera Colebrook said to us the other day shortly before her return to England. Mrs. Colebrook is the wife of Dr. Leonard Colebrook, who was a member of the scientific staff of the Medical Research Council of Great Britain from 1920 to 1948. While she was here she recorded three talks on *Burns and Scalds*, and these are being broadcast in 2YA's Women's Session, starting on Friday, May 13. Mrs. Colebrook told us that her husband

was Director of the Unit for Burns Treatment at the Birmingham Accident Hospital. Most of the cases were women and children who had been burned in their homes. She herself helped him in his work, and as a result of their activities, which included broadcasts over the BBC, many reforms were introduced in Britain, culminating in the Fireguards Act which was passed in 1952. "Before that we used to advise people to fix an ordinary cake cooling tray in front of the electric or gas fire if it was unguarded," she said. She added that much good work had been done along these lines in New Zealand in recent years, and she particularly commended the work of Dr. Helen Deem. Mrs. Colebrook's broadcasts will be heard later from other stations.

## Melody Maker★

LEELA BLOY (left), who will play some of Fritz Kreisler's best-known compositions in the series "By Their Melodies We Know Them," from 1YA next Tuesday, was leader of the 2YA Orchestra until it was disbanded a year ago. A popular broadcaster, she was born in Wellington, but brought up in Auckland, where she studied the violin with Violet Lewis and the late Colin Muston. She became a member of the NBS String Orchestra, conducted by Maurice Clare, and a member of the National Orchestra on its foundation. She gave up regular playing for the National Orchestra after she married W. E. McLean, who is principal viola player with the Orchestra, but she still plays for it occasionally at Wellington concerts. "We've been living out at Upper Hutt for five years," she said. "We have a daughter aged seven, and we also run boarding kennels for dogs on our three-acre property."

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