



TO a travel agent or an ordinary card-carrying taxpayer, the recent experience of Gerald Knight, Director of the Royal School of Church Music, must seem like a dream. Three months out from England, he has visited eight Asian countries and Australia, and after a month in New Zealand and another three months in Australia goes

home by way of San Francisco and Canada. On no account could his trip be called a holiday, however, he told us. Days and nights seemed to be too short for all the addresses he had to give to both lay and church groups, organ and choir practices and recitals, broadcasts and Press interviews.

About 4800 choirs through the Commonwealth are affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music, and new choirs are joining at the rate of about 500 annually. The School trains organists and choir-masters to a very high standard, and there is a very select band of only 24 diploma holders who are Fellows of the School's Organ and Choir Training School. Mr. Knight himself has seen many great ecclesiastical ceremonies, including the Coronation, where he was responsible for organising the invitations to choirs and their seating arrangements. As honorary organist to the Archbishop of Canterbury he will play on the beautiful organ in the recently re-opened Lambeth Palace chapel on such occasions as the consecration of bishops.

N.P.S. photograph

Open Microphone

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS ON AND OFF THE RECORD

over the NZBS) won't need briefing on Satchmo himself. They may, however, like to know something of some lesser stars on the disc. These five men and a girl have been part of the Armstrong act for some years.

Barney Bigard, clarinet, rose to international fame with Duke Ellington's orchestra from 1928 to 1942. He spent two years with Freddie Slack, then led his own combo

and played with Kid Ory until 1946, when he joined Armstrong. He has won three Silver Awards in the *Esquire* polls and played with Louis at the Metropolitan Opera House in 1944. James "Trummy" Young, trombonist, has been with Earl Hines, Jimmie Lunceford and Charlie Barnet. The youngest member is the bassist Arvell Shaw (born in 1923), who worked the river boats with the legendary Fate Marable. He served in the Navy, 1942-45, and then spent some years in and out of Armstrong's bands and combos. He distinguished himself by taking time out in 1950 to study harmony and composition at the Conservatory in Geneva, Switzerland, under the G.I. Bill.

Velma Middleton is the singer in the All Stars. Billy Kyle (ex-soloist in the memorable John Kirby sextet from 1938 to 1942) is pianist, while on the drums is Barrett Deems, featured for six years with Joe Venuti's orchestra.



Louis Armstrong

TARANAKI listeners to the newly-extended Women's Session have become familiar, since the beginning of February, with the voice and happy personality of Betty Loe. "I was born at a small place called Ward, and spent



BETTY LOE
24 rural years

the first 24 years of my life in true country fashion on a sheep farm doing odd jobs about the place, brewing, baking and the like," Betty wrote, when we asked her to tell her story. "Had a bit of fun with local

A WOMAN TO WOMEN dramatics and musical groups, reciting and singing with gay abandon in various places for the sheer heck of it. Forgot to mention three years spent at boarding school (St. Mary's) in beautiful Wellington. In 1951 I had my first taste of the big, wild world when I spent 12 months in England, Ireland and other spots about Europe.

"When I returned I decided I'd like to have a lash at N.Z. radio, and joined the NZBS at the beginning of 1953 in the Engineering Section . . . then replaced the Transcription Officer at 2ZB. I began my public broadcasting career with Miria at 2ZB, where I was general stand-in for anyone who took sick. Then I moved to 3ZB, and did a few sessions there before coming to 2XP. My hobbies? Singing, when I get the chance (which is generally in the bath, as few people would stand it anywhere else), and drama."

(ON the trail of information about the children's film screenings we wrote up recently, we asked for help from Dennis Garrett, secretary of the Child-



DENNIS GARRETT
It started with Marx

ren's Film Committee, and one of Wellington's keenest film enthusiasts. Thirty years old, Mr. Garrett was President of the Wellington Film Society from 1952 to 1955, and this year was elected President.

(continued on next page)



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