

Spanish Comedy

NEXT week YC stations will present an NZBS production by William Austin of the Spanish play, *The Dog in the Manger*, by Lope de Vega. This famous and prolific dramatist is credited with over 2000 plays, though the number of known titles is 752, and the existing texts about 470. Not surprisingly, he was called a "monster of nature," or more kindly, "phoenix of



Spencer Digby photograph

LINDA HASTINGS

genius." His own life story is a drama in itself. Of low birth, he was a precocious scholar, a soldier at fifteen, a member of the ill-fated Spanish Armada, a clerk in minor orders, twice married, a devoted father, a wit, dramatist and novelist. All this served as matter for his invention, in true Renaissance fashion, and he wrote plays ranging from lives of the saints to the flimsiest farces. He excelled in the traditional cloak-and-sword plays, with their "point of honour" motif, and *The Dog in the Manger* illustrates this style well, although it is a comedy.

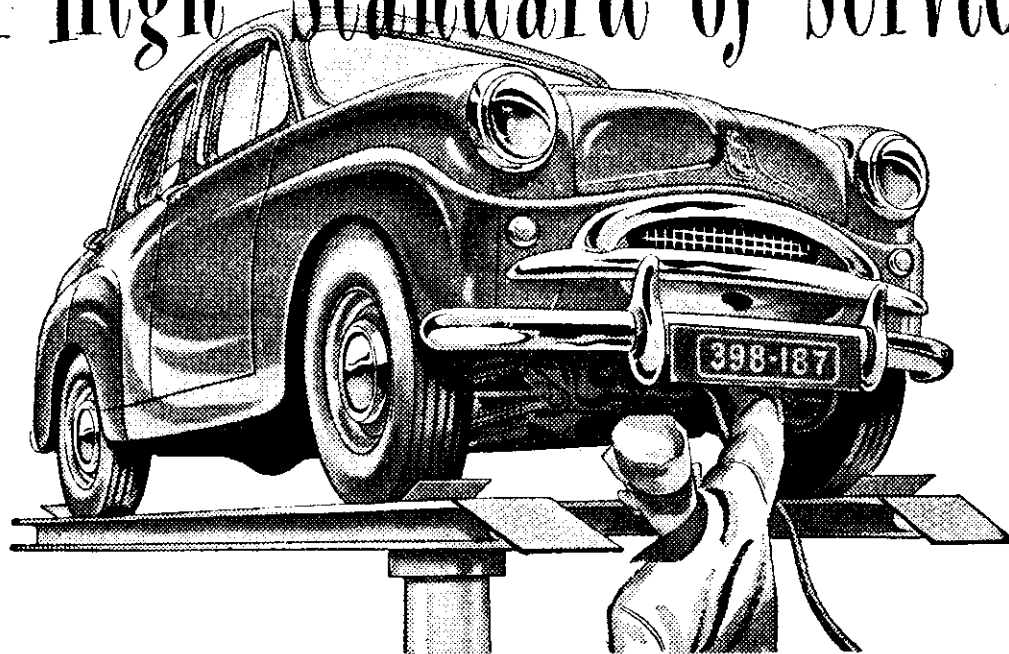
Diana (Linda Hastings), the lady of the house, secretly loves her poor but handsome secretary, Teodoro (Alan Jervis). She is jealous of his attentions to Marcela (Pamela James), one of her ladies-in-waiting, but she will neither let him go to Marcela nor bring herself to have him until she learns that he is the long-lost son of a nobleman—a matter engineered by Teodoro's servant Tristan (Michael Cotterill).

Sunday Night Mystery

LISTENERS who enjoyed the BBC mystery serial *Dead Silence* a few years back can follow the further adventures of Hugo Bishop on Sunday nights from 22B and 32B. This time the sleuth figures in a play called *Dead Circuit*, by Elleston Trevor, based on the novel by Simon Rattray. However, he's still the same fast-driving, chess-playing Hugo, played by Robert Eddison, with Noel Hood as his indispensable and formidable secretary Gorry, and Raf de la Torre in his original role of Detective-Inspector Frisnay. A much-sought-after secret weapon causing mysterious deaths in England and Spain is the theme of *Dead Circuit*, which has been produced by Audrey Cameron.

N.Z. LISTENER, APRIL 13, 1956.

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