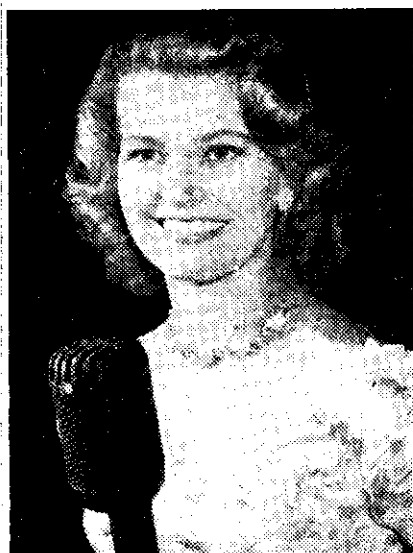




BBC photograph

BANK managers we've known were never like this, but then, of course, we aren't golden-blonde and good looking, nor Irish either, like the popular vocalist Joan Regan, seen above. During the war, it seems, Joan lived in Cornwall, where at 17 she met and married an American pilot. In the United States she lived as an ordinary housewife and became the mother of two sons. Back in England after her

Open Microphone

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS ON AND OFF THE RECORD

marriage broke up she told her bank manager one day that she wanted to become a singer, and when he arranged a meeting with Bernard Delfont the impresario was struck by Joan's talent and good looks. Her first records set disc fans clamouring, her versions of "If I Give My Heart to You" and "Merry Go Rounds and Swings" were best sellers, and she quickly became a favourite in radio and variety and on television. Her latest releases, frequently heard from NZBS stations, are "The Rose and the Flame," backed by "The Shepherd Boy," and "Just Say You Love Her," backed by "Nobody Danced With Me."

SIX months as a guest of the English and Scottish Young Farmers' Clubs and a shorter stay on the Continent and in America have made Derek Fechney more enthusiastic than ever about Y.F.C. work in New Zealand. "If the Y.F.C. Federation can become the strongest youth organisation in a largely industrial country like Britain I think it should be doubly so in New Zealand," he says.

Mr. Fechney, who conducts the session for Young Farmers and Country Girls' Clubs from 3YA on Thursday

spell as chairman of his local club, he has been vice-chairman of the Christchurch District Committee and a delegate to the Canterbury Council.

LIKE Dinu Lipatti, whom we mentioned last week, the young Edinburgh-born composer Thea Musgrave studied with Nadia Boulanger in Paris, after making a start at her home University, and four years ago she became the first British subject to win the Lili Boulanger Memorial Prize for composition. Miss Musgrave, whose *Cantata for a Summer's Day* is played in one of the YC programmes from the 1955 Edinburgh Festival (1YC, May 30), has written works ranging from songs and chamber music to a ballet. Miss Musgrave is herself heard on the same programme: she plays the continuo in a Handel cantata.

THERE will be quite a reunion in Wellington next month when, with his artist wife, Dr. Charles Thornton Lofthouse arrives as examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, for waiting to meet them will be their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Lockyer. Mr. Lockyer is Assistant Trade Commissioner for the United Kingdom in New Zealand.

Although Dr. Lofthouse is shown below at the piano, his special instrument is the harpsichord, and he is considered one of the best continuo players in Britain. A professor of the Royal College of Music, he already has a musical link with New Zealand through his former pupil Dorothea Franchi. At Christmas, 1949, Dr. Lofthouse conducted the London University Musical Society's choir in a first performance of Miss Franchi's "The Oxen" in St. Paul's Cathedral. The Patron of the Society, Princess Margaret, was among those present. This concert of Christmas music has become something of a tradition since Dr. Lofthouse first took his choir of 400 voices to St. Paul's in 1942. Among other works specially written for the Society which it has recently performed under Dr. Lofthouse are "On Christ's Nativity," by another of his pupils, Alan Ridout, and "All This Night," by Gerald Finzi.



DEREK FECHNEY

nights, went to Britain about 18 months ago. With another young Canterbury farmer, Derek Quigley, he had been selected to represent New Zealand Young Farmers on an exchange visit sponsored by the New Zealand Meat and Wool Boards. In Britain they stayed with farmers' families and travelled extensively looking at farming and marketing methods.

Not yet out of his twenties, Mr. Fechney works a 900-acre sheep farm with his brother at Aylesbury, 22 miles from Christchurch. He first became interested in the Y.F.C. movement when he was at St. Andrew's College, Christchurch. Later, at home, he joined the Darfield Club, and has been an active member ever since. Besides having a



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The Ballad of DAVY CROCKETT

Davy Crockett, the Indian fighter, hero of the epic stand at the Alamo, has really captured the imagination of young America ever since Walt Disney immortalised his legend on film. Davy Crockett was the rugged pioneer who knew no fear. Amongst other things "he kil't him a barr when he was only three" in the words of the song. So completely has Davy Crockett fever entrenched itself in the United States that whole new industries have been created to satisfy the demand for Davy Crockett coon skin caps, suits, shirts etc., Davy Crockett compasses, knives, toys and so on. It is small wonder that every child in the U.S. has become a Davy Crockett follower, and Fess Parker's recording of the ballad is now a firm favourite over here too. The backing is "I Gave My Love" (Riddle Song) also by Fess Parker from the Disney Show.

Also from the same production:

B 21566 H "Farewell" and
"I'm Lonely My Darlin' (Green Grow the Lilacs)"

— FESS PARKER

HAVE YOU HEARD THESE NEW RELEASES?

B 21532 H "The Fish" and "Bring Me Your Love" - MINDY CARSON
B 21603 H "Taking a Chance on Love" and "My Love for You" - JOHNNIE RAY
P 26158 H "A Fool in the Ways of Love" and "I Love You More" - DAVID HUGHES
P 26168 H "La Mer" and "Dance of Granada" - BILL MCGUFFIE

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