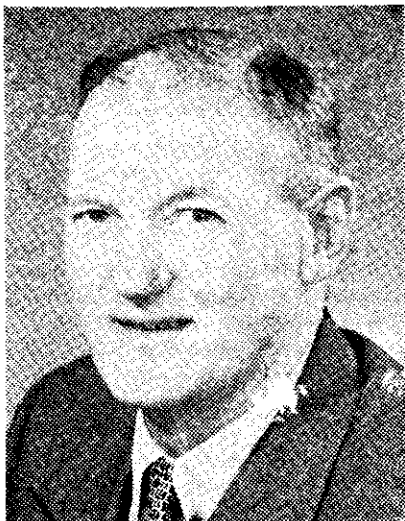


NZBS GARDEN EXPERTS—5

IT'S been a long "three weeks" in broadcasting for A. M. Linton, 1YZ's Gardening Expert. Soon after 1YZ opened in 1949 he was asked to provide a gardening programme for "two or three weeks." For the first two years 1YZ presented him only as the Gardening Expert; but the interest in the man behind the broadcast was so great that the station was asked many times to identify him and eventually it did so. The popularity of his Saturday morning session has never waned, and his ever-increasing weekly mail brings samples and questions from all parts of the Bay of Plenty. Mr. Linton has appeared continuously before the 1YZ microphone, apart from a short break when he was nominated as a candidate for the Rotorua mayoralty.

Mr. Linton's love of gardening finds expression in a fine vegetable and flower garden, and as if that were not enough he puts in a good deal of time breaking in five acres of land in the Rotorua district. Besides gardening, his interests include angling, and he is also a Rugby



A. M. LINTON

enthusiast. Some years ago he was active as a player and had a place in a New Zealand Universities Fifteen. Mr. Linton is chief surveyor with the Maori Affairs Department at Rotorua and Mayor of Rotorua—two jobs which take him to many parts of the Bay of Plenty.

(continued from previous page)

opinion while he was in New Zealand recently. "I think the best thing is to broadcast it, or put it in special concerts of modern music," he said. The Quartet plays a lot of modern works and several composers have written works especially for it. A quartet by Benjamin Frankel which it played in New Zealand is dedicated to the group, and when they get back to London they hope to find that a new quartet by Malcolm Arnold will be ready. "It'll probably arrive the day of the concert," said Muriel Taylor. And Nannie Jamieson told us how they once got the last movement of a new quartet the day before they were to play it.

AS Penny in *A Life of Bliss*, Petula Clark is probably one of the most widely-heard players on the air on Sunday nights, and avid listeners ourselves we were interested to read the other day that at 23 she is as

PENNY fresh and engaging as when she entered show business 16 years ago. "I hate being called an ingenue," she told a *Radio Times* re-



PETULA CLARK

cently, "but I suppose it's true." And as if to prove her point she answered an inquiry about the colour of her hair: "You could call it Titian, but really it's just toffee-coloured."

Petula Clark is, of course, well-known outside radio, as any regular film-goer will tell you. She has appeared on the stage and in a couple of dozen films, has her own television programme and has made a great many records. Petula—who, by the way, doesn't like to be called "Pet"—was born in Surrey and first appeared on the stage when she was seven. Three years later she sang at the Royal Albert Hall. As our picture suggests, she is a small, neat person. Outside her busy life in the entertainment world she swims, canoes, rides and plays badminton.

ESPECIALLY well known to New Zealanders for his BBC programme *The Voyage of Magellan*, the poet Laurie Lee was recently awarded the Foyle Poetry Prize. "Mr. Lee, unlike most of our poets, has never been bureaucratized," said "Atticus" in the London *Sunday Times*. "He has never taught, never lectured, never taken political orders, never worked

PRIZEWINNER (or almost never) in an office—never sold out in a word, for respectability." When asked, Laurie Lee is himself a bit surprised that he exists at all and puts it down to a miracle. But he also has a warm word for the BBC, which has helped to keep him alive and recently sent him to Spain.

The son of a sea-faring man who gave up the sea and settled near Stroud, in England, Laurie went to London when he was 20 after running away from home and sleeping by the wayside for four weeks. From London he went to Spain, where he spent a year playing the violin for a living. In 1951 he married a niece of Sir Jacob Epstein and now lives in Chelsea. His recreation? Like Mozart, he has a passion for playing billiards.

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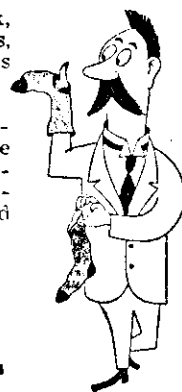
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