



THE Cec Neal piano-acordion band and the compere Ian Vernazoni are on stage before a crowded house at the Hastings Municipal Theatre in this shot from "Curtain Call," the ninth annual theatre show presented by Station 1Y2. Items were presented by Hawke's Bay artists, with Johnny Cooper as guest, and proceeds went to the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Girl Guides' Association

office boys and others use to unleash their inhibitions in moments of tedium or excitement. These spectacular doodles were the work of the Goons—Spike Milligan, Peter Sellers and Harry Secombe—and ex-Goon Michael Bentine, who escaped to Australia about three years ago. This makes them, our office girl tells us, not doodles but "Goon-oodles." They would be drawn on the backs of scripts during rehearsals or performance of *The Goon Show*, the BBC programme which has a following of about 5,000,000 people in Britain, and is now being heard from NZBS Commercial stations on Sunday nights.

Major Denis Bloodnok, doodled by Sellers, who also plays him in the programme, was a caricature of an officer of the old Indian Army—not very surprising, since both Spike Milligan, who writes the script, and Sellers have associations with India. Milligan was born in Ahmednagar—which sounds a bit improbable to say the least—and educated at Poona, finishing off (or, if you prefer it, "and was finished off")

at Rangoon and Colombo. Sellers too red India and the East with Ralph Reader's Gang Show. Sellers had also sketched

Henry Crun and the elderly spinster Minnie Bannister driving the steam-roller that makes disastrous appearances in many *Goon Show* episodes. Harry Secombe had some far from flattering self-portraits on view, and Milligan's exhibits included two nude studies "which indicated the more serious artistic interests of this talented Goon."

Radio correspondents of the English Press were naturally curious to see how the Goons themselves saw the characters that have sprung from their fecund and fevered imaginations. They



HENRY CRUN
(by Sellers)

may also have had some faint hope that they would find out at last just what *The Goon Show* is about. Many people think this is a virgin field of discovery, though the Goons themselves, you remember, have no objection to describing it as a "senseless farrago, set in a space-time discontinuum, in which the frontier between logic and lunacy is first rubbed out and then redrawn in another place." Spike Milligan (as our typewriter spontaneously called him) and Peter Sellers were present at the show. Asked why it was that all Goons doodled, Milligan said: "We do it to prevent us going sane."



EVERYONE was pleased when 10-year-old Lynette Brown, of Auckland, won a prize in the stamp essay competition conducted by IYA's "Children's Session," for Lynette is a pupil at the school of the New Zealand Institute for the Blind. Though she had never seen the stamp she wrote about, the stories about stamps and stamp collecting told by H. Christopher in the "Children's Session" every Friday had caught Lynette's interest. In the picture above Gay, who conducts the session, presents Lynette with her prize—a book about animals which will be read to her—while Mr. Christopher (left) looks on.

N.Z. LISTENER, OCTOBER 5, 1956.

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