

THE HOP GARDENS OF NELSON

"KENT, sir—everybody knows Kent—apples, cherries, hops, and women," so says one of Dickens's characters. Substitute Nelson for Kent and you describe, near enough, at any rate, the sunny province in the hop-picking season. From 2YA on Tuesday, November

13, at 10.0 p.m., listeners will hear the story of hop-growing in Nelson in a documentary programme, *From Bine to Barrel*, written for the NZBS by Bruce Broadhead.

This programme starts with a historical picture of the importance of hopping to

English brew, and traces the gradual spread of hop-growing throughout the world. Hops are grown in many countries, and in New Zealand there is a branch of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research devoted solely to research into breeding and cultural problems.



WEIGHING the crop
in a Nelson hop-
garden

A hop-garden is a demonstration of preponderance in the female of the species—for there are both male and female plants and (at least in New Zealand) about eighty females to a single male. The female (Californian) species grown in this country reaches a height of sixteen feet in about six weeks. And how many feet of hop-bine would a fast worker pick in 34 years? One old lady whom Bruce Broadhead discovered might have given the answer if she had kept figures of yield and bushels picked, because for that period of time she has been picking hops at the same place in Nelson and is still—at 88—a first-class worker. But labour in hop-picking is a major problem, for though highly efficient machines are available to do this work, their cost is prohibitive for the small grower. The Government, however, subsidises fares for the willing and hop-picking for many people is still a first-class working holiday.

Heard in *From Bine to Barrel* are people who deal with all aspects of the hop industry: growers, pickers, distributors and brewers. Even the humble home brewer gets a mention in a reference to packeted hops for domestic use.

From Bine to Barrel is but one of Bruce Broadhead's documentaries about Nelson to be heard in the coming week. Two other rural programmes designed for city listeners are *The Valley*, to be heard from 4YA, Tuesday, November 13, at 10.30 p.m., and from 3YA on Friday, November 16, at 8.0 p.m.; and *Forbidden Fruit*, from 1YA on Friday, November 16, at 10.0 p.m. *The Valley* is a programme about the Tadmor Valley, which is the largest raspberry-growing area in Nelson, and possibly in New Zealand. *Forbidden Fruit*, as its name suggests, is about the apple orchards of Nelson.

RANCH ROUND-UP

REPLACING *Won't You Come In?*

at 9.30 each Monday, beginning November 12, is a popular American variety programme, "Pappy" Cheshire's *Ranch Roundup*. "The songs and stories of the plains and mountains of the American West have become . . . basic entertainment for a major part of all radio listeners throughout the United States," declares "Pappy" Cheshire, who is confident of a similar reaction in New Zealand.

"Pappy," who is (he admits it himself) an authority on the lore and music of the cowboys, the loggers, the miners and huntsmen of the American continent, has spent the major part of his life in the theatre and radio of the West and Middle West, and now divides his time between radio, television and motion picture work. In his newest venture, *Ranch Roundup*, "Pappy" is the central character. This is a "Western" variety programme combining old and new songs—and stories—typical of those heard on ranches and in lumbering and mining communities stretching from the Rio Grande to the Arctic Circle.

The group of entertainers who revolve around "Pappy" Cheshire in this show are all popular artists in the United States. First there are Andy Parker and The Plainsmen, a group of five singers and instrumentalists, well known through the recordings they have made. Parker also steps out of the group to act as an occasional foil to the pro-

"PAPPY" CHESHIRE
(on right) with three of
the principal entertain-
ers of "Ranch Round-
up": Andy Parker (who
leads the Plainsmen),
Ginny Jackson, and
(next to Pappy) Wally
Imes



gramme's chief comedian "Hank" Penny who, we are told, was discovered in a cotton patch near Rimlap, Alabama. The feminine touch in the show is provided by Ginny Jackson (born Idaho), who found fame as a vocalist—and landed a recording contract—after an appearance on a Santa Monica tele-

vision show. Ginny is also singing star of the CBS Rex Allen series.

Wally Imes, who lives and works in Phoenix, Arizona, is a relative newcomer; but is considered to be one of the most promising of a large crop of "Western style" ballad singers. Wally is the proud owner of "Wasatch Winnie"

who, being a horse, does not sing, but is nevertheless described as an entertainer.

"Pappy" Cheshire's *Ranch Roundup* will begin on Monday next from all YA stations. There will be no broadcast on November 26 or December 3, listeners should note, because of Olympic Games broadcasts from Australia.