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"ONE of the most inspiring things about my job is that I see good people trying hard." Jim Boswell was talking to us about his work as Talks Officer at Auckland and particularly about broadcast discussions, which he finds amongst the most fascinating programmes he has to produce. "They're so completely unpredictable," he said. "Here is a group of people

carefully chosen to represent different points of view. Each of them wants to do justice to his case—often it's his one, and only radio appearance. It becomes almost single-handed combat. You



JAMES BOSWELL

On the air, a Kon-Tiki raft,

know, when I leave the studio before they go on the air I feel as if I'm pushing off the Kon-Tiki raft."

James Boswell—he's Jim, of course, to his friends—has been in broadcasting for 20 years, if you don't count his earlier experiments with crystal sets. Before he joined the Commercial Broadcasting Service he was a free-lance writer, for like many other young men who grew up in the depression years he had no regular job waiting for him and no chance of going to university—which was something he badly wanted to do. As a free-lance he had quite a bit of success not only in New Zealand but in the English and Australian market. He still sends off an occasional item, and writes and records items about New Zealand life for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation—items that have the flavour of New Yorker reports from abroad. His 10-minute letter on Kawerau was entered by CBC for publication among the work of some of the great news commentators, and was printed in New York last year in the Grollier Society's annual "Story of our Time." Another spare time interest is local history—not surprising in a man whose great-grandfather landed on the beach at Auckland in 1842—and Jim told us he was amused to find that 1YA stands on a section which Willoughby Shortland resold after he had acquired it in his special position as a colonial servant.

Jim Boswell's first job was as publicity officer for the Commercial Broadcasting Service, but he was soon active

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS ON AND OFF THE RECORD

in programme organisation. Then, after a few years he was able to realise his academic ambition—five years as a part time university student. He doesn't make much of it now, but he admits they were pretty tough years. He had married Laura Dromgool, an Auckland librarian, at about the start of this period, and not long after graduation they set out to spend a year abroad. He free-lanced in Canada and in New York spent about two months working in the United Nations Secretariat as an interne, nominated by the New Zealand Government. Apart from his fascination for his day to day job in the Radio Division, he was able to look in on some of the more dramatic moments in the life of UN—a Soviet walk-out and so on.

From New York the Boswells crossed to Britain for two months in London, two months travelling in their own light car all over Britain, and two months on the Continent. "Incidentally," Jim said, "the old car is still carrying us around here in Auckland." Jim and his wife arrived back home on the 364th day of their year's leave with only £2. "Of course everyone has been abroad these days," he said, "and there was nothing special about our trip. But I've found the fact that I have been away an enormous help in my job."

Jim Boswell transferred to the Talks Section of the NZBS soon after he came back from overseas. First there was a short spell at Head Office, throughout which this "most Auckland of Aucklanders" pined for the north—or so he used to tell us. Since then he has looked after spoken programmes at 1YA and 1YC. There he gets a lot of enjoyment out of meeting broadcasting deadlines which would give many journalists grey hair overnight. Sir Anthony Eden's arrival in New Zealand was one instance he mentioned. "We knew only at the last minute that Sir Anthony was too ill to give us a separate interview, so we had to be content with a recording made under great difficulties at the Press conference. Doug Laurensen came back from the ship at 7.40 with a tape that needed much editing. Our story had to be fed to Australia at 8.15, then to Wellington, and to London at 9.45. Actually Radio New Zealand had it on the air at 8.30." But Jim believes that broadcasting should be an up-to-the-minute mirror of the times, and we didn't doubt that the zest and amusement with which he told us that story reflected what he really felt at the time.

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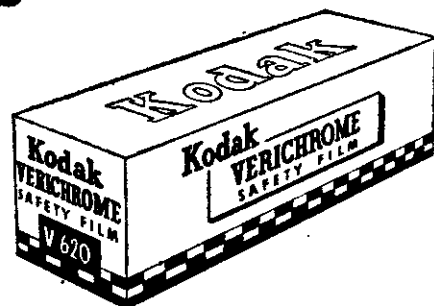
ETHEL WALLACE, a foundation member of the National Orchestra and well known to musicians throughout the country, has left the Orchestra to return to Dunedin, her home town.

FOUNDATION MEMBER

A popular member of the Orchestra, she was always closely associated with its social life. At a farewell, the Leader, Vincent Aspey, presented her with a silver water pitcher and tray and spoke of her fine work as a violinist, while the secretary of the Orchestra's social committee, George Booth, paid tribute to her valuable help. Ethel Wallace, who in private life is Mrs. John

N.Z. LISTENER, MAY 17, 1957.

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