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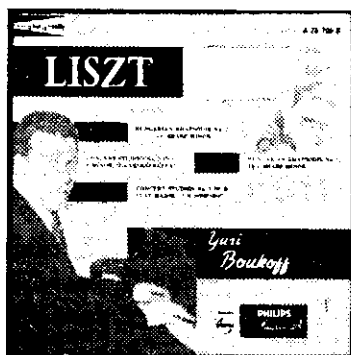
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TWENTY-TWO-YEAR-OLD Rex Franklin, one of the song writers in *New Zealanders Wrote These*, was around 17 when he learnt to play the Spanish guitar and sing cowboy songs to his own accompaniment. "I learnt every chord, run and so on by myself," he says, "and in 1953, when I knew only two songs, I sang at a talent quest in Dannevirke." Rex met a young couple who were looking for

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS ON AND OFF THE RECORD

Napier and Hastings, he went to school in southern Hawke's Bay. When he was 15 he left high school and worked as shed hand in a shearing gang on the East Coast. After 18 months on a sheep station he went to live in Norsewood, where he worked first at a grocery store and later at the dairy factory. Rex and Noelene were married last year and now have a baby girl, Lorraine Sheree. Rex intends to go on writing songs—"I enjoy every minute of it," he says. His latest, "The Ring You've Never Worn," is in "more or less of a folk style." At present he is running his own Western variety show once a month in the Norsewood Town Hall.



Burrett Studio photograph

REX FRANKLIN

"I enjoy every minute of it"

a singer for their Western band, then early in 1954 he went on the air for the first time, from 2ZA. That same year he wrote his first song, "Oh, Why Can't You Say?" which he followed up with "We'll Share Our Love Once More."

"I now have nine or 10 Western songs registered with APRA," Rex tells us, "and I've broadcast most of them from 2XA, 2ZA or 2YZ. One of my later numbers, 'Rocky Mountain Lullaby,' has been recorded by my wife, Noelene Anderson, and myself, but this has yet to be released. The flip side is the first of my compositions, 'Oh, Why Can't You Say?' Our first release was 'Would You Mind?' and 'I Wonder Where You Are Tonight.' That came out a year ago."

Although Rex was born at Napier and spent his first few years around

For most of us that's as far as it gets—the rest is the stuff that dreams are made of. But Jessie McLennan has become so used to travel—in Nationalist China, Australia, England and on the Continent—since she gave up her job as



N.P.S. photograph

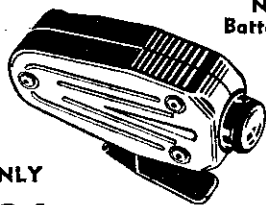
JESSIE McLENNAN

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NZBS Commercial Division Supervisor of Women's Programmes to get married, that it was the most natural thing in the world to go right ahead with another trip, to Spain and Portugal. What she did and saw she describes in

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