



a mad rock 'n' roll in the last minute of what was otherwise a perfect cut. The last time I did it, everybody was standing by, including a plumber with an electric soldering iron, and I had to do it with at least 16 people around me in a dour circle. The wonder was that I got it done at all, as I had to fight down a passionate desire to giggle."

★

PABLO PICASSO has had blue and pink periods in his painting—even, some would say, a mauve one—but in this respect if in no other he has been outdone by many children in Otago. Their paintings have been dominated in turn by red, green, blue, yellow, and black and white. The initiator of this "period" approach to painting is Thomas Esplin, who conducts the Junior Art Club

on 4YA's Children's Session. British-born, Mr Esplin trained for five years at the Edinburgh College of Art and won a travelling scholarship to study in Europe before war put paid to all such civilian plans. Then began six years in the army, including fighting in France and Germany, during which he rose to the rank of captain in the Royal Artillery. His first contact with New Zealand was in 1952, when he taught for a

★ THOMAS ESPLIN arranges a show of work by his 4YA Junior Art Club

time at Otago Boys' High School. He had returned to England and was principal art teacher at the Buckie High School, when he was offered a post at King Edward Technical College, Dunedin. Nowadays he is Senior Lecturer in Design at Otago University's School of Home Science, and is President of the Otago Art Society.

The Junior Art Club had a shaky start in 1952, but since then it has thrived till this year it can claim 700 members. The weekly competitions usually draw up to 350 entries. Mr Esplin feels that the club's value has been in the encouragement it gives, rather than in any attempt to set standards. It helps children to express themselves, especially country children, many of whom are Correspondence School pupils and rarely if ever meet an art teacher. Sometimes whole families will take part, and one week Mr Esplin had an entry from a lady of 80 whose work came in along with the children's. Each broadcast consists of a brief talk touching any of the vast number of topics which interest artists, followed by the results of the current week's competition and announcement of plans for the next.

## ★ Children's Friend ★

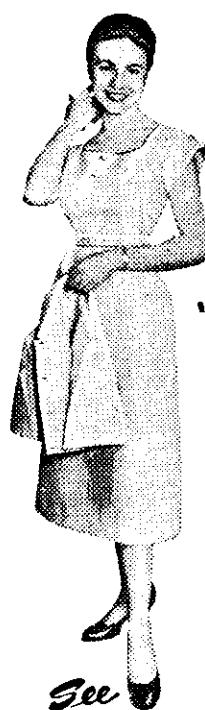
MARGARET JOSLING, of 3YA (left), has been taking the Children's Session since the beginning of the year, but she was an old hand then at broadcasting. Some 10 years ago she left St. Margaret's Girls' College and joined the NZBS in the programmes

section, and now Margaret is Assistant Programme Officer. She has been an active public speaker, and has appeared on the stage in plays, concerts and competitions—"In the singing and character acting classes," she said, "I simply hated reciting poems. I like singing, mainly light ballads, and painting in water colours and oils. But I think my main spare time activity is in gathering a group of friends and just talking, on anything and everything." Margaret is engaged to Bill Easton, an electrical engineer in the State Hydro Department at Wellington.



N.P.S. photograph

N.Z. LISTENER, OCTOBER 18, 1957.



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