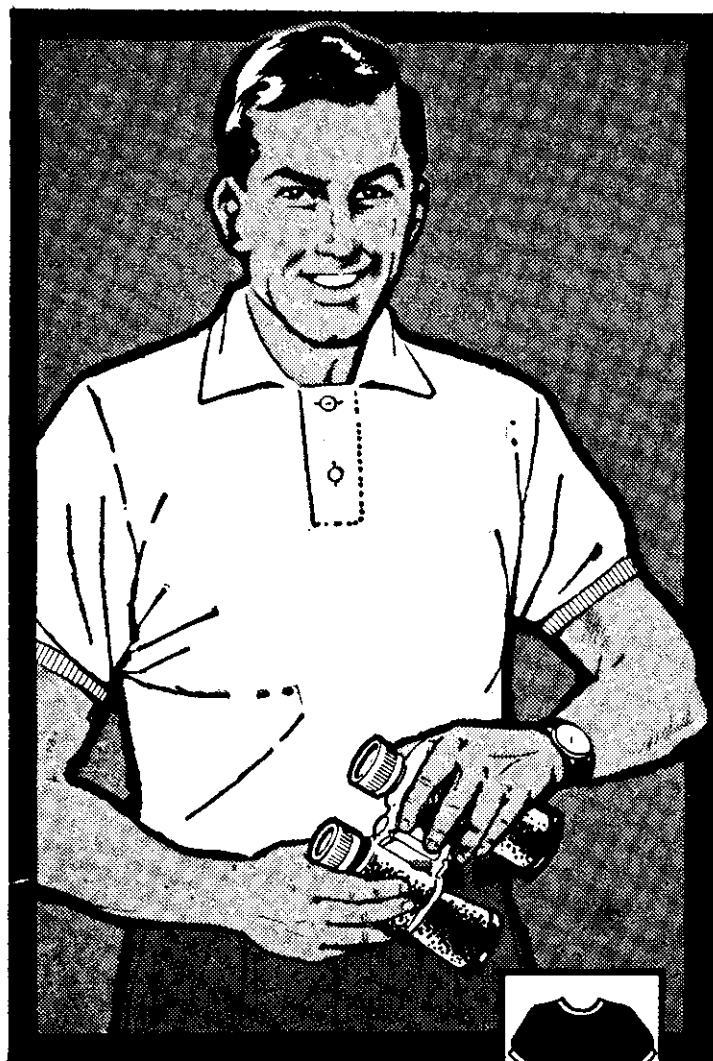




take it easy

"Take it easy" shirts (pictured above) come in white and pastel knitted cottons. Perfect for golf, yachting—or just for comfort's sake.

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MSP.2

Open Microphone

NEWS OF PEOPLE AND PROGRAMMES



MANY stories were told about Jack Davey (seen above), the New Zealand-born star of Australian radio and television, who died in Sydney while this issue was being put together. One of the last we came across concerned his arrival in New York during his visit to America earlier this year. At half-past-five in the morning even the dauntless Davey found the big city terrifying, and it couldn't have cheered him up when he was told his room

JACK DAVEY wasn't ready. Depressed, he called a cab—though he really had nowhere to go. The Gotham cabbie gave him one look and said, "You're Jack Davey. I was one of the guys you entertained in New Guinea during the war." Then they set off on a tour of New York—on the house.

Jack, who for more than 20 years talked off the cuff to millions of Australian listeners, startled the Americans when he told them he ad-libbed most of his shows. Apparently he found that over there the top radio and television stars each have several writers working for them. While in Los Angeles Jack made a film for the promotion of wool. Also taking part was Jayne Mansfield whom he found "both beautiful and brainy." Making a guest appearance in the Art Linkletter show, *People Are Funny*, Jack went down so well that Linkletter invited him a second time.

Born at Auckland, Jack Davey went to school there at King's College. His father, Captain Arthur Davey, long associated with the trans-Tasman run, wanted him to go to sea, and he tried this among other jobs before breaking into Australian radio, first as a crooner, about 25 years ago. Although he is said to have arrived in Sydney with only £1, he quickly got into the big money. Apart from his many radio and, later, television shows, he was widely known as a newsreel commentator; and during the war he entertained servicemen in the field for the American Red Cross. Jack Davey, who was 49, is survived by his wife.

★

ROBERTA ELLIOTT, who as Robin conducts the 1YA *Children's Session*, has spent most of her working life with children. Although she was attached to

the Commercial Division *Women's Hour* for 18 months before going to her present post, she spent 10 years as a school-teacher, most of the time

ROBIN teaching sick children at the Whāngarei Hospital School. Roberta was born in Christchurch but brought up in Auckland. From her schooldays she was always keenly interested in drama, and she has taken roles in plays produced by repertory societies in Auckland, Hutt Valley and Whangarei and by Unity Theatre, Wellington. Not long ago she produced Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler* for the Auckland Repertory Society. She has also written plays and short stories. One of her plays, *Pedestrian Crossing*, was placed first in the Northland Drama Festival of 1955.

Roberta Elliott first went on the air from Whangarei, where as a mezzo-soprano soloist she gave studio recitals from 1XN. Now she is a widely experi-



ROBERTA ELLIOTT

enced broadcaster, for in her 18 months with *Women's Hour* she conducted programmes from seven NZBS stations. Among the new programmes Roberta has prepared for the *Children's Session* is a series of musical stories from Aesop's Fables—she has written the narrative and lyrics and Derek Bailey, of 1YA's programme staff, has been responsible for the music. When we talked with her not long ago she had also completed the second series of *At the Ballet*, with Poul Gnatt.

★ ★

FOUR children camping at a remote bay on the West Coast of New Zealand would never have difficulty finding excitement and adventure. But with a ghost town nearby, some suspicious-looking activity going on on board a wreck in the bay, and, best

GOLD of all, the discovery of gold, the stage is set for a first-class serial. *Gold at Kapa*, by Phyl Wardell of Christchurch, will start next week in 3YA's *Children's Session* (and in 4YA's next month). *Gold at Kapa* has already been broadcast by the ABC, but to suit the listening habits of young