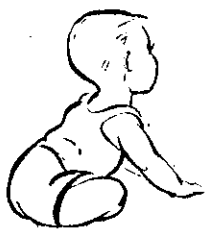




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Nell Stirling

SOMETIMES a radio actor remains merely a voice to the audiences, sometimes some of the sincerity behind the voice comes through, establishing an almost personal link. Listeners throughout New Zealand will learn with regret that well-known radio actress Nell Stirling collapsed and died at her home in Vaucluse, Sydney, on November 10. At thirty-eight she was one of the best-known radio voices in Australia and New Zealand, and the controlling force behind the George Edwards Players. She was heard in a great variety of productions, from the classics of Dickens and Dumas to the evergreen *Dad and Dave*, in which she played the part of Mabel. She was at home in character parts of every description, excelling in dialect, and frequently played several roles in the one production—she had seven different parts, for example, in *Bleak House*.

Most of those who heard the George Edwards productions of Georgette Heyer stories will remember her portrayal of Léonie, Duchess of Avon, in

NEWS of the death of Nell Stirling, whose voice was as familiar to thousands of New Zealanders as that of the next-door neighbour, reached us just as our last issue went to press. This brief appreciation is contributed by NANCY BRUCE.

These Old Shades, and her stammering little Countess Horatia in *The Convenient Marriage*. She had the ability to get inside a character and bring it vividly to life simply through the medium of her voice.

Nell Stirling early determined to have a stage career, and at sixteen produced her own act at Sydney's Tivoli Theatre, later joining the Jim Gerald Revue Company. When she was eighteen, George Edwards, with his eyes on the radio field, was auditioning girls in a search for a partner. Forty-first to be heard, Nell was his selection, and they began work together almost immediately.

In those days of radio acting there were no recordings, and actors were on call from early morning until late evening, playing all shows "live." In 1933-34 Nell Stirling played in 44 quarter-hour episodes weekly. Later on, recordings made it possible to work to less trying schedules, and to send the shows over

"THE LISTENER" CROSSWORD

(Solution to No. 576)

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Clues Down

- Chooses for help with a pen for a start.
- Grow fat on a piece of board?
- What a silly thing for cheerful cows! (2 words).
- Seasoned by exposure to storms.
- Physical force begins at six.
- Disorderly accumulation.
- A temporary expedient.
- Dopey and Sleepy, for instance.
- Pester or pestilence?
- I am set for a white silk stuff.
- With the seat upset, the Royal Navy are behind.

Clues Across

- Young horse round a degree for a metal, with another type of horse in the lead.
- Fifty wives turned round on a pin.
- Travel faster than.
- This may string you on, because it probably isn't pussy's.
- Not a useless elephant found in Washington (3 words).
- Spin ground before anger to enthuse.
- A warning against indiscreet talk (3 words).
- My ego and I in the Royal Navy for a portion of land.
- A priest gives you a stroke of the lash.
- Slices of meat not as hard, we hope, as the wood inside.
- A hand for a jack-pot.

No. 577 (Constructed by TWC.)

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