

Chance Happening Led to Invention Of Vacuum Cleaner

A tall young man kneeling beside an armchair in Victoria Street, London, cupped a handkerchief over his mouth and sucked hard against the light wine-coloured upholstery. He nearly choked in the cloud of ancient dust which filled the air.

But as he spluttered and coughed his friends saw a ring of black specks on the handkerchief—and at that moment the vacuum cleaner was born.

It happened fifty years ago. Today aged nearly 80, Mr. H. Cecil Booth, the man who gave housewives the greatest of household labour-saving devices, lives quietly in his dust-free home at Purley, Surrey.

One warm spring afternoon in London in 1901 he was watching an American demonstrating a carpet-cleaning invention. A powerful jet of air, blown on to the carpet at high pressure, was supposed to blow out the dust into a box placed above the nozzle. Most of the dust missed the box and settled on the clothes of the watchers.

As he brushed his trousers, Mr. Booth, a consulting engineer, said: "Why not suck the dust out of the carpets?"

Young Booth experimented, gathered a few close friends together, and won support. One man backed him, and the Vacuum Cleaner Company, Ltd., was formed.

In August, 1901, Booth's "vacuum cleaner"—he invented the name, too—was patented. An electric-driven monster mounted on a horse-drawn van. Two 8000-lb. long tentacles of hose trailed from its metal vacuum chamber.

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Complete with all necessary attachments.

Newspaper article tells how vacuum cleaning was invented.

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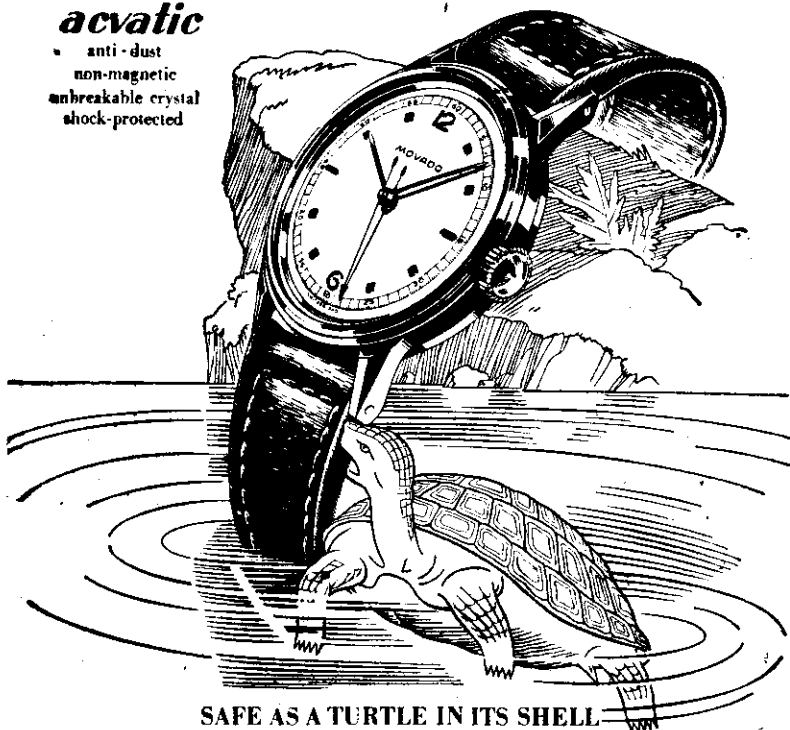
In 1901 "the works" were in the street.

In 1904 it was "hand power" in the home.

THE NEW HAYWIN VACUUM CLEANER

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unbreakable crystal
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FROM THE ZBs

"Calling All Forces," a New BBC Variety Show

[LAST year BBC decided that Ted Ray would be as effective in raising the morale of overseas troops as he had been in raising a laugh, and began a variety series entitled *Calling All Forces*. The idea was to provide an entertainment programme common to the tastes of troops overseas and their families in Britain, and with Ray as M.C. the venture proved very successful. Now, New Zealand listeners will be able to increase that appreciation for Ted Ray which they gained from *Ray's a Laugh* by listening to *Calling All Forces* on either of the four ZB stations each Sunday evening at 7.15, or 2ZA at 6.0. The first episode of this programme is scheduled to February 10.

To aid Ted Ray in concocting a potent entertainment cocktail are singer Petula Clark, the Stargazers—with Gerald and his Concert Orchestra—and the George Mitchell Choir. Additional spice is added by the appearance at each performance of a guest film star and guest comedian. *Calling All Forces* features such talent as bill-board boys, delight in terming a "star-studded show," with Derek Roy, of *Variety Bandbox*, Honor Blackman, Arthur Askey, Moira Lister, who stars in *The Love of Four Colonels*, Phyllis Calvert, Richard Murdoch and Kenneth Horne, of *Much-Binding-in-the-Marsh*, Max Wall, Cyril Fletcher, Ingeborg Wells, Charlie Chester, Alfred Marks, Susan Shaw, Belita, the Australian star Margaret Johnston, and many other celebrities in Britain's entertainment world.

Among New Zealand radio audiences Ted Ray needs no introduction, but Petula Clark, the resident singer on



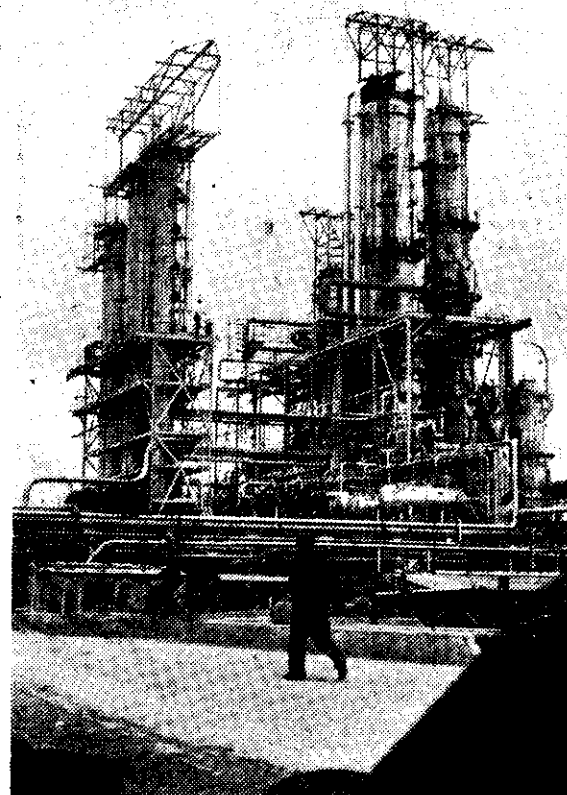
PETULA CLARK, resident singing star of "Calling All Forces," and a firm favourite with British television audiences

Calling All Forces, has not the reputation in this country which she deserves. Public ballot in England not so long ago rated her number one favourite among female television stars, while her own programme on television, *Pet's Parlour*, gained her a recognition which her part in *Calling All Forces* sent to even greater heights. A favourite among the forces who heard the BBC's special programmes for them, Petula will double Ted Ray's chances of making *Calling All Forces* as popular in New Zealand as it was overseas.

THE STORY OF OIL

PETROLEUM is not just another word for petrol, but a versatile substance that enters into the daily lives of millions of people in many lands. And, says Frank Chilton, it is the most vital commodity in international trade, and the source of a third of the total world power supply. Three talks by Mr. Chilton on *Liquid Gold: The Story of Petroleum*, will be broadcast by 2YA, the first at 7.15 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12, and the others at the same time on the following two Tuesdays. They will be given under the headings of Production, Refining, and Distribution.

The photograph on the left shows a crude distillation unit, the second to come into operation at the Stanlow (England) Refinery in June last, increasing that plant's capacity to over 3,000,000 tons a year.



N.Z. LISTENER, FEBRUARY 8, 1952.