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SEVERAL listeners have been curious about the piece of music used to introduce both the BBC's *Paul Temple* serials and the ZB stations' *Going Places and Meeting People*, and have asked for the title. Suggestive of travel—by train in particular—it is part of "Coronation Scot," composed by V. Ellis, and played by the Queen's Hall Light Orchestra.

CHILDREN taking the BBC's Broadcasts to Schools programmes a month or two ago were the first to hear a new poem, *The Ballad of Kon-Tiki*, written for broadcasting by Ian Serraillier. The poem tells of lashing up the balsa wood, and of the storm, and of the sea creatures who later came to the raft. The exciting scene of Herman's rescue by Knut follows, and the climax of the ballad is the wreck of the raft. The work ends peacefully with the arrival of the Kon-Tiki's crew on the island of Takume.

NANCY HARRIE, pianist and novachordist, who is heard with John Thompson in *Four Hands in Harmony*, is in private life Mrs. Lee Humphreys. Like Joy Nichols, she is expecting to have a baby next month. Lee Humphreys is at present leader of The Knaves.

John Thompson is leader and arranger for The Duplicats, and also their pianist. Warwick Ransom and his Rumba Band feature Nancy Harrie and Crombie Murdoch as pianists. Ransom is well up in the presentation of Latin-American music, has made a large number of recordings, and when not busy with his band represents a well-known music publishing house. Esme Stevens, who sings with Dale Alderton and his Orchestra, is Mrs. Alderton. She is also one of The Duplicats. When Artie Shaw was in New Zealand he chose Esme as his vocalist while broadcasting in Auckland. Alderton is a trombonist and also the male singer in The Duplicats. Julian Lee, blind multi-instrumentalist, as well as having his Electrotones, plays in many of Auckland's dance bands. He was the featured player in Auckland's recent Swing Concert. John Mackenzie, cinema organist, and town traveller for an Auckland firm, has his Trio, and is also responsible for *Uncle Zeke's Music Store*. Occasionally he relieves at the Civic Theatre's organ console. He has made recordings under the name of John Mackenzie and the Astor Dixie Boys.



Nancy Harrie

THE ballad of Frankie and the man who done her wrong (which, when we were younger and in the right condition, we trold to our own ukulele accompaniment) has come into the news again, for Frankie is dead. No one knows just when and where it began, but there are over 300 versions of

### FRANKIE'S LAMENT

Frankie and Johnnie. Frankie Baker, a young woman in the Negro district of St. Louis in 1899, was sure she inspired it, says *Time*. "When her man (Albert Britt) two-timed her, Frankie tongue-lashed him; when he pulled a knife on her she shot him dead. Tried for murder she was acquitted because she killed in self-defence. People in the streets began singing the ballad of Frankie and her and they kept singing it as she moved westward. Mae West sang it in the Paramount film *She Done Him Wrong*; then RKO did a picture called *Frankie and Johnnie*. Frankie Baker complained that everybody but her was making money out of her song. Her travels ended in Portland, Ore., where for the past few years she lived on relief in a ramshackle frame house. Neighbourhood kids sang her song outside her window." Last January Frankie died at the age of 75. Perhaps the most popular recording of this song broadcast by the NZBS is Guy Lombardo's, with Jenny Gardner as vocalist.

# Open Microphone

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS, ON AND OFF THE RECORD, By *Swarf*

## NEWS OF BROADCASTERS, ON AND OFF THE RECORD,

By *Swarf*

paper. Mr. Waters also wrote a good deal about Admiral Byrd's expeditions. In 1941 he joined the Naval staff in Wellington as Intelligence Officer, and now he is working as War Historian for the Royal New Zealand Navy. He has written three books. *Clipper Ship to Motor Liner, Ordeal by Sea, and Pamir*.



Spencer Digby photo S. D. Waters

SOME of the leading dance bands in America are now basing their musical style on that of the late Glenn Miller, whose work has become popular among NZBS listeners to dance sessions. Among them there are particularly the orchestras of Ralph Flanagan, and of Tex Benecke, who took over Miller's band.

"The 'be-bop' style has just about gone out," a Wellington dance band expert told me the other day. "Very few people could understand it, let alone dance to it," he said. "It has, in fact, slipped so much that big bands who tried to retain it dwindled down to trios, quartets, quintets, and perhaps sextets—with the exception of Stan Kenton, whose orchestra, which is of the concert type, is specialising in progressive jazz." The "name" bands in the United States, he added, were swinging back to the "Dixieland" style, which makes the melody clear and unmistakable, and is therefore good for dancing to.



A MEMBER of an old seafaring family and for many years a shipping reporter, S. D. Waters has a photographic memory for ships and the men who sail them, as everyone who listens to his broadcasts on *Ships and Shipping* knows. Whether he is talking about

four-masters or coastal scows, triple expansion engines or diesels he has a wide listening public, not only among people who are connected one way or another with ships. Sid Waters was a shipping correspondent at Lyttelton when the port was a base for the Antarctic expedition ships—Scott's *Discovery* and *Morning* in 1901-04, Shackleton's *Nimrod* in 1907-08, Scott's *Terra Nova* in 1910-13, and Mawson's *Aurora* in 1911—and played a leading part in high pressure news-gathering for his

## Duo Pianists

ABOUT 15 years ago an English girl, Sylvia Faust, now visiting New Zealand, appeared in a musical film called *Talking Feet*. She was one of fourteen child pianists whose instruments were arranged in the form of a "V" with Mark Hambourg and his piano forming the apex. In 1939 she was awarded an Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music scholarship to study at the Royal College of Music. In the same year Dorothy Downing, of Wellington, was awarded a similar scholarship tenable at the Royal Academy, but she was unable to take it up because of the war. Dorothy Downing and Sylvia Faust are giving a series of six studio



DOROTHY DOWNING (left) and SYLVIA FAUST N.P.S. photograph

recitals for duo-pianists at 2YA on Sunday evenings and the third will be on February 24. The piece? *Milhaud's Scaramouche*.

N.Z. LISTENER, FEBRUARY 22, 1952.