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"The Real McKay," says Critic Owen Jensen,

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TWICE weekly in its General Overseas Service the BBC broadcasts for the benefit of British servicemen in Korea, Hong Kong, Malaya and the Far East a special record request programme called *Forces Favourites*. This session, which has now been running for



BBC photo
Max Bygraves

over two years, has had two signature tunes. Recently it was decided in London that it would be a good idea to ask the Forces themselves to choose a new one, to make sure that they got what they really wanted. Ten popular tunes were selected and played in the programme on several occasions. Ballot forms were sent to men in the Far Eastern Forces who had written to the BBC previously, and the announcers on the programme invited all servicemen in these areas to send their choices to the BBC by letter. In came the votes from Korea, Hong Kong, Malaya, Singapore, Ceylon and Japan, and also from men serving in the Royal Navy. Hundreds of votes were recorded and when a tune was voted for on a ballot form it was often the combined choice of a number of men. One sent in by a colonel in Korea represented the views of 400 soldiers of all ranks. The result was a landslide in favour of "I'll See You in My Dreams," which received nearly as many votes as all the others put together, with "Rolling Round the World" second, and "Sentimental Journey" and "Petite Waltz" almost tying

Open Microphone

for third place. The Americans also broadcast record request programmes for their forces serving in Korea, and apparently British and American troops listen to both to compare notes. Only recently two G.I.s stationed at Okinawa wrote to compliment the BBC on *Forces Favourites*, which they often heard, and to ask for a record. This record, duly played in the programme, was almost an inter-allied affair, for it was by a British artist, Max Bygraves—who recently appeared in America with much success—and was a skit on eminent American songs, called "The Cowpuncher's Cantata."

ONE of the nine authors whose stories are being broadcast in a Christchurch programme called *Slightly Out of True* is Anthony Bartlett, who has contributed articles to *London Punch*. He was born in London in 1929 and

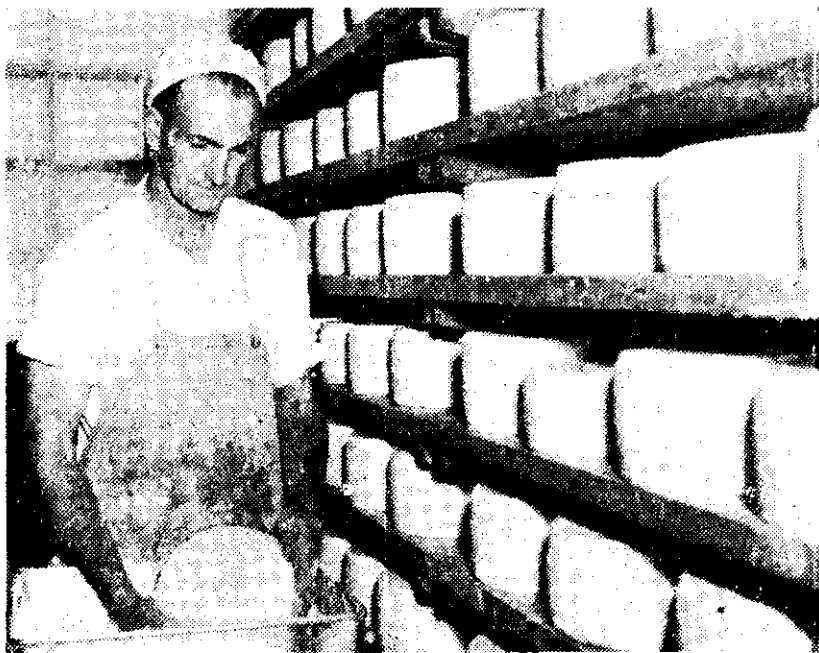
AUTHOR-ANNOUNCER

went to school at Beckenham, Kent, until the age of 18; then he was in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1949. Bartlett was at Wadham College, Oxford, from 1949 until 1952. He read English Language and Literature, gained a second class honours B.A., contributed to the two University magazines, *Isis* and *Cherwell*, and as a vacation job in 1951 he spent three months typing in the News Room of the BBC. In May, 1951, he married a girl from Christchurch, New Zealand, and from then on, he says, the idea of coming to New Zealand gained

ground. A daughter, Alison, was born in Oxford in May, 1952. Anthony Bartlett came here in August last and joined the New Zealand Broadcasting Service as an announcer at 3YA, then at 3ZB. Now he is on the announcing staff of 4YA Dunedin, and, to use his own words, "I am enjoying myself very much." *Slightly Out of True* is being broadcast in 3YA's *Mainly for Women* session at 2.0 p.m. on Thursdays, and by 3YC on Thursday evenings.

NEWS used to travel along the tenuous communication line of rumour and the succeeding stages were by foot, horseback, coach, pamphlet, newsletter and newspaper until, today, it flies through the air with the greatest of ease. So also does politics, which has become perhaps the biggest draw card of the year's radio programmes. But as well as travelling through the air, eventually to be lost to most memories, the words of the politicians are preserved for all time in the book called *Hansard*. Today *Hansard* (the official report of parliamentary debates and proceedings), which started in England, is a household word, and it is taken as a matter of course. But the whole question whether the British public should be allowed to read what their representatives said in Parliament was for very many years a matter of acute controversy. *Hansard* has been adopted not only in New Zealand and Australia, but in Canada, South Africa, Ceylon, Southern Rhodesia, Trinidad and Tobago. It took its title from the name of a printer, the first of his line being Luke Hansard, born 200 years ago, and it is to his eldest son, Thomas Curson Hansard, that we owe the modern *Hansard*. Perhaps when you're sitting at home listening to Parliament being broadcast, you miss some vital word or figure; or you wonder if what you heard was really what the man said. You may be sure that the *Hansard* reporters have it safely down, and that it's "all in the book."

"I'm getting tired of comedians who insist on singing or who introduce a spasm of crooning into an act quite strong enough to stand on its own," remarked a friend the other evening. That's something I, too, have wondered about. A singing COMEDIANS teacher once claimed WHO SING that anyone who could speak could sing. That, of course, is false. There are people (we've all heard them) who will never be able to sing, no matter how they try. Even with a voice ready-made and just waiting to be lifted up, intensive training is needed before a would-be singer should be let loose upon the public. My friend quoted the *Variety* Bandbox comedian, Reg. Dixon, and Ted Ray, of *Ray's a Laugh*. As a matter of fact, Dixon took lessons and was singing with a dance band a good many years before he became proper. He is also something of a song writer. He thinks out a melody while working on his farm (most comedians seem to have farms), or driving along a country road, and if he can remember it in the morning, he feels it's worth



HISTORY RELATES the use of cheese by many early peoples. The Greeks and Romans are supposed to have had cheese as a staple food at least 1000 years before the beginning of the Christian era. Today cheese is made and sold under perhaps 400 to 500 different names, some of which are as fascinating and tasty as the product itself. For instance, there are Caciocavallo, Emmenthaler, Neufchatel, Parmesan, Pecorina, Roquefort and Sapsago. But we must reserve a place for New Zealand's own Blue Vein variety, which is now famous in its own country and, for all I know, abroad. Today, in a comparatively short time, the documentary radio programme can give us an authentic, instructive and entertaining account of people, places, and events in the news. If you tune in to 2XP's "Farm Session" at 8.1 p.m. on Thursday, May 14, you will hear one called "A Visit to a Blue Vein Cheese Factory." Our photograph (above) shows salt being rubbed into blue vein cheese by hand instead of being added in the vat as in Cheddar cheese making

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