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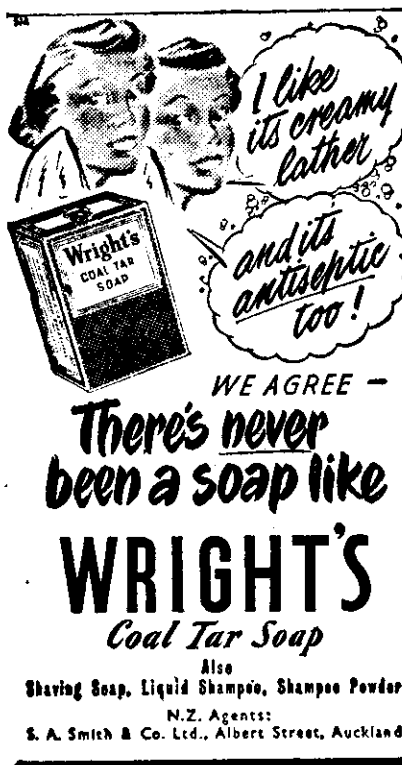


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BLOW THE MAN DOWN

WITH microphones wrapped in cheesecloth and artists and audience wrapped in all available clothing, an NZBS concert party recently recorded a variety programme aboard ship in a 70 m.p.h. gale. The party was conducting an audience participation show entitled *Time to Sing* aboard the liner Rangitara in Wellington Harbour, and the gale was that which recently carried away sections of the Eastbourne foreshore.

The captain, several of his officers, and a number of the crew could not attend the show: not because they didn't want to, but because the rising gale required their presence on deck. Extra lines were put out—the most Wellington's harbourmaster had ever seen on one ship—but still the wind forced the vessel as much as ten feet away from the wharf. On the wharf edge a technician in the NZBS mobile recording unit sat ready to cut his cables should the liner leave the scene unexpectedly. The recording van itself was perhaps too well sprung. It was said to be rolling more than the ship.

But on the Rangitara's B-deck flat the show—in the best theatrical tradition—went on. Sheets of stretched canvas broke the force of the wind, but enough found its way in to ensure that scripts and sheets of music disappeared at the most inconvenient moments. Several sheets of music, together with the double bass player's hat, went for a sea voyage



THE STORM outside didn't damp the enjoyment aboard ship—a photograph taken on board the Rangitara during the concert-with-storm effects recorded by the NZBS

on their own account. The pianist, John Parkin—clad in dinner jacket, tennis sweater, overcoat and hat—missed his cue at one point through getting two fingers jammed in the thumb-hole of his mittens. Singers missed the revelation of their own art by being unable to hear their voices for the wind. The technician, hearing only the howl of the

gale and an occasional grumble from the bull fiddle, wondered if he'd got a recording at all. However, the audience of 150 merchant seamen joined in the songs, and the show went with a will rivaling that of the southerly buster outside. Listeners will hear the recording—complete with storm sound effects—from NZBS stations later in the year.

ZB Women's Hour

CHEERFUL TRAVELLER IN AUSTRALIA

A BRIGHT-EYED testimonial to missionary work, Billy, the young Australian aboriginal depicted on this week's cover, was brought to the Finke River Mission, Central Australia, a mere bag of skin and bones. He was nursed back to health, taught to walk, and stayed on to become the pride of the mission.

The story of this lonely mission in the desert is told by Ngita Woodhouse in a series of talks entitled *Traveller's Joys*, which will be heard weekly in the

Women's Hour from ZB stations, beginning on Monday, June 8. According to Miss Woodhouse the mission was established 75 years ago by a group of Lutherans who had left Europe to escape religious persecution. As a gesture of thanksgiving for their new-found freedom they undertook the task of helping the aborigines to adjust to European ways without losing the good qualities they already possessed.

An experienced broadcaster—she conducts ZB's gardening session—

Miss Woodhouse has an eye for the revealing detail, and a dry sense of humour. In "Northward Journey," a talk on the trip from Adelaide to Alice Springs, she gives this description of the scenery: "A hot sun shone out of a bright blue sky, and, if the whole truth must be told, it glittered unceasingly on the broken beer bottles that seemed to line the track the whole way from Adelaide."

Having deliberately planned her trip to take in places as different as possible from New Zealand, Miss Woodhouse is able to give listeners glimpses of such places as Palm Valley, where grows a species of palm known as "the living fossil," because it is one of the oldest surviving forms of plant life; of Parramatta, which she describes as "the cradle of Australia"; of the inland towns of Orange and Bathurst; and of Paddy's Market, the section of Sydney which was once a hay market, but which now sells "everything imaginable under the sun, from fur coats and fountain pens to turnips and tambourines." One talk, entitled "Tutti-Frutti," is of special interest to cooks and gourmets, for it describes the fruit industry of Mildura and the making of the popular "glacé" fruit. Other talks deal with Central Australia's Flying Doctor Service, and with the growing artistic contribution of the aborigines. The movement started by the aboriginal painter Albert Namatjira has reached the stage where 17 aboriginal artists are exhibiting. Having learnt to use the white man's colours they are now demonstrating the black man's talent.



PALM CREEK, an oasis in the Central Australian desert about 100 miles from Alice Springs, described by Ngita Woodhouse in one of her talks