

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS, ON AND OFF THE RECORD,

By *Swarf*

Marianne Davies and Marianna Kirchgessner. The harmonica (mouth organ) is usually attributed to Sir Charles Wheatstone, being introduced by him in 1829. The instrument is, to a point, easily learnt, but feats of virtuosity such as we hear today are possible only to the highly talented. Larry Adler and his instrument, a 12-hole chromatic harmonica, have appeared on the BBC's Third Programme.

RICHARD MURDOCH, the *Much-Binding* star, was recently selected by a London newspaper columnist as one of the best-

dressed of British actors. He took part a little while ago in a BBC series of musical burlesques, playing the role of Beau Brummell, the grandson of a gentleman's gentleman who became the fabulous Regency dandy.



Richard Murdoch

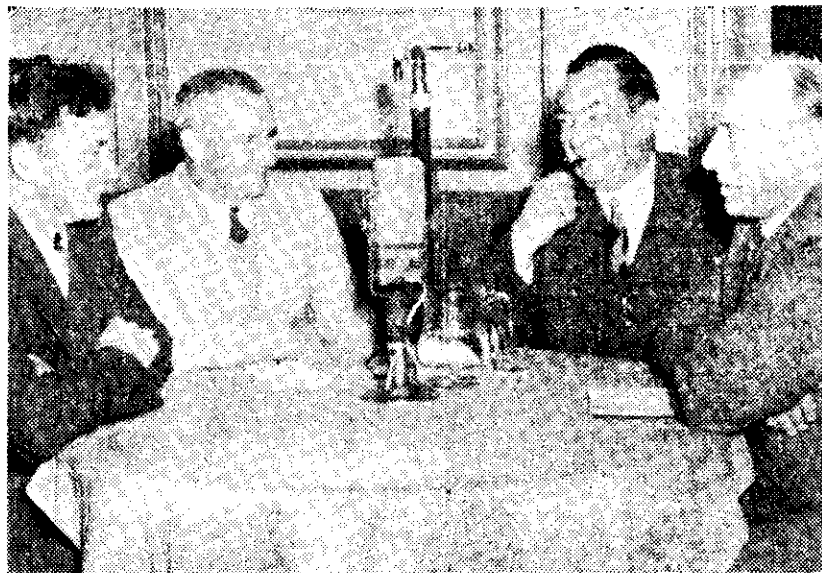
DOROTHY DUNCKLEY, a widely-experienced stage and radio actress, who plays the part of "a charming old lady" in *Sabotage* (1XH, Monday to Thursday, inclusive, and starting at 4ZB on July 20), has some advice for beginners in radio.

Her tips are: "Learn to play to the microphone, for it is the only thing that matters during a performance; overcome your nervousness and subliminate yourself to the part you're playing;



DOROTHY DUNCKLEY
"A charming old lady"

one important thing, do not listen to your voice while you're acting; instead, relax and give that particular part all your attention." Dorothy Dunckley got into radio through the almost inevitable



STATION 3YA's Country Session, "Rural Roundtable," whose members go on the air at 12.33 p.m. on the first Monday of each month. From left to right are: Pat McGloin (on the staff of Lincoln College), Bob Milne (a Department of Agriculture officer at Rangiora), Dick Williams (dairy farmer), and Charlie Cran (manager of an estate near Hororata)

door of repertory. Later she spent 18 months in Hollywood learning make-up and, at the same time, writing for newspapers in New Zealand and Australia. Serial listeners will remember her as Mrs. Dill-Whittle in *Crossroads of Life*.

AFTER a chat to Alan Loveday the other morning I asked where I could see his pianist wife, Ruth Stanfield. "She's in the studio across the passageway," he said. "Come and meet her." Ruth Stanfield

PIANIST AND PAINTER

was sitting at a piano, limbering up her fingers. Her engagement and wedding rings were on top of the instrument ("I never wear them while I'm playing"), and her cardigan was flung across the back of her chair ("Wellington's climate is something like England's, but milder"). Although only 22, this attractive English girl, who uses merely the faintest trace of make-up, has already composed trios for strings, music for piano, for violin and piano and songs for two voices and piano. Every time she comes across a poem she likes she sets it to music ("I think I'll put that cardigan on again"), and she practises from four to five hours a day, but has been known to put in 10. Ruth has appeared in many solo and joint recitals in London, Oxford, Birmingham, and, "Oh, crumbs, I can't remember them all—yes, Scotland." She paints and intends to do some work in oils and water-colours before her 10 weeks' tour with her husband is over. On the way downstairs I met Vincent Aspey (leader of the National Orchestra). I left the trio talking about—violins, of course.

WHEN Yehudi Menuhin toured New Zealand in 1951, giving nine concerts in 14 days, he came across a little book about yoga, studied it carefully and tried out some of the prescribed contortions. On arrival back in New York he sought a tutor and really got down to it with Yogi Vithaldas. Now aged 36, Menuhin does exercises to help his eyes and throat, twists his torso to make his back more supple, and runs

a cord through his nose and out of his mouth. This latter spectacular performance helps his sense of smell and makes his eyes bright, he says. Finally he stands on his head so that the blood will flow down and refresh his brain. Yehudi recommends this pose for orchestra conductors because they could "conduct with their feet and still face the audience, which is so dear to them." Says the *New York Times*: "Whatever private difficulties he has had with his art, he seems to have conquered them." Today Menuhin is said to regard yoga and sleep as more important even than violin practice. He has tried to induce his wife, a former ballerina, to join him in his exercises. Her reaction is: "I've been putting my legs behind my ears for years, but I always got paid for it."

"THERE'S no greater crisis in a bachelor's life than when he goes to get a clean shirt and finds he hasn't got one."—Gadfan Morris, a bachelor, speaking in a BBC programme.



LEO DOVE, baritone, of Auckland, who was heard recently from 1YA in a studio recital of traditional songs arranged by the late Sir Hugh Robertson

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SWEETHEART"
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