

Smugglers' Caves and Secret Tunnels

AN exciting adventure serial written and produced in New Zealand is to be broadcast shortly in the Sunday early-evening programme from 2, 3 and 4ZB and 2ZA. Entitled *Captain Cain*, the story is similar in style to such universal favourites as *Treasure Island* and *Kidnapped*—and it should therefore appeal to children of all ages.

The action takes place in the Cornish fishing village of Polkyll in 1815—the



CHRISTOPHER VENNING

year of Waterloo. The hero and narrator of the story is 18-year-old Roger Carlyon—ostensibly the nephew of the local miller, Oliver Mildmay, but actually heir to a title and rightful lord-of-the-maneur of Polkyll. Roger's existence is at first unknown to Sir Richard Carlyon, the brother and murderer of Roger's father, and the man who has usurped Roger's lands and title.

Like any fishing village of Napoleonic times, Polkyll was not altogether law abiding. When the pilchards weren't running, the smugglers and revenue agents were. Much of the brandy sipped by London Society came ashore in casks on the backs of brawny part-time fishermen and found its way to the city by way of the secret tunnel at Polkyll. The village was conveniently situated for the purpose of dodging excisemen, with an island just offshore behind which the smugglers' vessels could hide without anyone in Polkyll knowing about them. The smugglers were led by the ruthless Captain Cain, a hooded figure who organised operations, but was seldom to be found taking part in them.

In his quest for evidence that would

restore him to his rightful fortunes. Roger Carlyon finds himself in contact with both smugglers and revenue agents, but like many another shrewd Cornishman, he keeps a close guard on his tongue and manages to remain on friendly terms with both.

In the NZBS production, the part of Roger is played by Christopher Venning, his uncle Sir Richard by Kenneth Firth, his friends the blacksmith Doubledick and the parson Steven Rollo by Selwyn Toogood and Martin Cock. Other characters include the deputy-lieutenant of Cornwall, Sir Bevil, and his daughter Susan, the prevention agent Lieut. Bosinney, the innkeeper Pennycomequick, the bootmaker and village gossip Sam Pollex, and of course the infamous smugglers' leader Captain Cain.

John Gundry, who wrote the story, says he read a number of books on

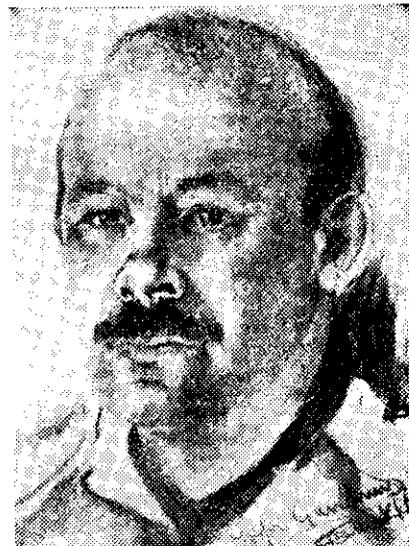
doing so. Several of the secondary characters use the Cornish dialect, and authentic names have been used. Doubledicks and Pennycomequicks are still to be found in Cornwall at the present day.

There is plenty of action in each of

The Lie of the Land

FOR the amusement of young listeners—and to help them follow the adventures of young Roger Carlyon with the smugglers and excisemen of the Cornish coast—next week's issue of "The Listener" will contain a pictorial map of Polkyll, complete with all the odd coves, creeks and caves that

figure in John Gundry's "Captain Cain."



JOHN GUNDRY
The cliff-hanging technique is employed on the Cornish coast

the 52 episodes of *Captain Cain*, but the author has not neglected the serial "cliff-hanging" technique of keeping a specially exciting incident in suspense, and the listener is left impatient for the next episode.

The serial was produced at the Wellington Production Studios of the NZBS. It will be broadcast first from 2ZA at 6.0 p.m. on Sunday, June 21. Station 2ZB will give it its first broadcast at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday, June 28, and 3ZB and 4ZB at 6.0 p.m. on July 5 and July 12 respectively.

MUSIC THEY LIKE

THE NZBS has devised a series of programmes in which 14 musicians prominent in New Zealand will tell listeners about their favourite musical passages and then play recordings of them by way of illustration. In these programmes, which have the general title of *A Chapter in Musical Autobiography*, speakers will introduce a favoured theme from a symphony, from a choral work, a song, or part of a sonata. Each of the programmes will occupy half an hour (with one 20-minute exception). They are not intended to be "desert island discs" sessions, nor are they in any sense a request programme. The main idea has been to discover the highlights in the mass of music familiar to each expert.

(continued from previous page)

Factory, Not made in the Slums of Cairo or Constantinople, Not made in Continental Prisons."

Tobacco has inspired more than one poet, from Edmund Spenser's praise of "divine tobacco" to Charles Lamb's "For thy sake Tobacco, I would do anything but die." J. M. Barrie wrote a book describing with quiet humour his life-long flirtation with "My Lack Nicotine." The BBC's programme, however, is more interested in the medical aspects of smoking. Modern laboratory tests show that smoking causes constriction of the blood vessels in the limbs. It may also have a constricting effect on the arteries supplying the heart. *Smoking* will be heard from 2YA at 9.30 a.m. this Sunday, June 14, from 1YC at 9.32 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16, and later from other National stations.

The composers range from Bach to Bartok and from Vivaldi to Vaughan Williams. One well-known musician includes in his selections for discussion Rosemary Clooney singing "Come on a' My House," and Stan Kenton's Orchestra playing "Blues in Burlesque," but he goes on to talk about Delius, Purcell, Mendelssohn and Mahler.

Speakers taking part in *A Chapter in Musical Autobiography* are: Ernest Jenner (Lecturer in Music, Christchurch Training College), Dr. Charles Nalden (Lecturer in Music, Auckland University College), John Ritchie (Lecturer in Music, Canterbury University College), Mary Martin (Lecturer in Music, University of Otago), Dr. Vernon Griffiths (Professor of Music, Canterbury University College), Alex Lindsay (Conductor of the Alex Lindsay String Orchestra), C. Foster Browne (Organist and choirmaster, Christchurch Cathedral), Stanley Oliver (Conductor of the Schola Cantorum, Wellington), Dr. V. E. Galway (Professor of Music, University of Otago), John Longmire (English composer now living in Auckland), Owen Jensen (pianist and broadcaster on music), Frank Callaway (recently Director of Music, King Edward College, Dunedin, now Reader in Music, University of Western Australia), L. C. M. Saunders (Music-master, King's College, Auckland, and music critic), and Dorothy Davies (concert pianist, Wellington).

Some of the musical illustrations have been specially recorded for the series, which will start at 2YC on Monday, June 15, at 7.45 p.m., with Ernest Jenner, and at 4YC at 8.30 p.m. on



ERNEST JENNER

Wednesday, June 17, with Stanley Oliver. Later it will be heard from the other YC stations and from the four YZ stations.

A second series of NZBS musical programmes will also come on the air next week. Greyvale, as a note in the 2YA programmes on page 36 explains, is an imaginary North Island town which listeners should get to know well during the next three months. Every Thursday at 8.0 p.m. during that time (starting on June 18) 2YA will look in on the Greyvale Singers as they rehearse or give public or broadcast concerts. Mr. Sinclair, their conductor, is an Englishman who had his own choir before he came to New Zealand about five years ago, and listeners will find that his long experience has given him



Stanley Oliver photograph
STANLEY OLIVER

a rather incisive style. All the same, his authority seems to be challenged at times by the accompanist, Miss Jeremy, who has been with the choir so long that she feels it would not hold together without her. Besides these characters listeners will have reason to remember also the secretary-treasurer, Mr. McIntosh; Mrs. Davis, the plump, hearty wife of a railwayman; and Mr. Toller-ton, the society's bore. And they will hear from the choral group (which we believe is really directed by Clement Howe), an agreeable series of items (solos, duets, trios and quartets among them), which range from traditional numbers like *Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes*, to Purcell part songs. The programme is written by Ulric Williams of Radio New Zealand.