

Continental Artists

IT is not only these many new New Zealanders from the Netherlands who make a point of tuning in whenever Ellen Vann's name appears in the radio programmes, for this attractive singer has made many friends throughout the country with her broadcasts in such programmes as *Cafe Continental*, from 1YA, or *Music at Nine*, from 1ZB's Radio Theatre, and with her recordings. With other artists like Bill Witsyn and Rinaldo and his Gypsy Quartet, she has brought music with a continental style to the microphones of the NZBS.

Ellen Vann is a woman of many abilities, and the cloth toys which she is showing to her seven-months-old daughter Lousje on our cover this week were made with her own hands. She is also quite a talented water colourist and sketcher, while the house which she and her husband have rented in Auckland has been redecorated in true continental style. Not the least of her talents is an ability to sing in seven languages, which is a heritage of her past life in Europe.

She was born in Holland and came to New Zealand two years ago. Up to then she had been working as a professional entertainer for the American Occupation Forces in Germany and had been lucky enough to perform on programmes with many celebrated American artists. While she was in Germany she studied singing under Maestro Renato Virgilio, formerly accompanist to such singers as Beniamino Gigli and the great Enrico Caruso. She came out to New Zealand with her husband who had been fighting with the Dutch forces in Indonesia, and who decided to settle here after Indonesia received its independence. He went home to Holland,



BILL WITSTYN
"A table in the corner"

married Ellen Vann, and brought her back to New Zealand with him.

This Sunday, July 26, at 9.0 p.m., listeners to 1ZB will hear Ellen Vann sing songs from her continental repertoire in the programme *Music at Nine*, with the Auckland Studio Orchestra conducted by Oswald Criesman playing from the Radio Theatre. On the following Thursday, July 30, at 7.30 p.m., listeners will be able to hear her again from 1YA in the programme *Cafe Continental*, with Rinaldo's Gypsy Quartet and Bill Witsyn. In this new musical programme the atmosphere of a continental restaurant is created with Bill Witsyn acting the part of the friendly waiter who chats with the guests and announces items over the microphone.

"Good evening, ladies and gentlemen," he will say. "Now you have joined us everything is ready. We always reserve the best for your pleasure. And if you are comfortable? Yes, of course, this table in the corner is your regular rendezvous." And the songs which follow are sung in English, in Dutch, in French, or in German—whatever seems most appropriate to the mood of the moment.



IN a broadcast in the Women's Sessions from the four YA stations on Wednesday, July 29, a Southland women's panel will discuss the ways in which the interests of New Zealand women can best be served. Members of the panel (above) are, from left: Mrs. Olga Sansom, Director of the Southland Museum; Mrs. Bette Young (chairman), heard regularly in the local Women's Session; Mrs. T. M. Watson, a Dominion vice-president of the W.D.F.F.; and Mrs. Elsie Nelson, a school teacher of wide experience.

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