

Our Mail Bag

Stations Near 2YA.

I HAVE been an interested reader of "The Record" since its first publication, and look forward to it each week, especially the "Mail Bag." Last week I read of "Youthful Enthusiast's" inquiry of a station on 1YA's setting, also another on 2YA's setting. This week I read an answer to these inquiries, both stations being American. I also have heard two stations near 1YA and 2YA's setting, but they could not be these stations, as I have only a variable condenser crystal set and two-stage amplifier. I am not sure on which nights I received these two stations, but it was in the first week in June; both were received about 7.50 p.m., but I did not put them in my book of receptions. I would be very pleased if anybody could give me an idea of these stations. I would also like to know who has the best list of stations, also the number of stations received on a crystal-set and two-stage amplifier. My list is N.Z.: 1YA, 2YA, 3YA, 8ZC, and 4YA. Australia: 3LO, 3AR, 2FC, 2BL, 2GB, and 4QG—11 stations. The first time I heard "Aussie" was on March 19, when I heard a man announcing that "Hustling Hinkler" was to speak from that station (3LO Melbourne). Hoping some reader will be able to help me as to the identity of the two stations I have mentioned.—E. W. Powell, Christchurch.

Station Near KFON.

COULD any listeners please inform me as to the identity of a station below KFON? I picked a station up at 2 o'clock a.m. Sunday morning playing Wurlitzer organ, also piano, but could not get name owing to static. Wellington programmes are coming through good. Fine orchestra. The station "Youthful Enthusiast" heard on 236 metres was probably KFON, and the other station on 95 was probably Hobart on 535 metres.—B. Wenlock, Waitati.

KFON is listed as 242 metres, and Hobart as 516. There are several Californian stations just below KFON—KFR on 232 and KELW on 229. The Radio Listeners' Guide (2s. 9d., post free), or from dealers at 2s. 6d., has a comprehensive list of overseas stations.—Ed.]

Campaign Against Howlers..

IT is satisfactory to note that the radio inspector for Wellington is taking active steps to investigate the different complaints regarding interference.

"Howling valves" and other forms of interference have at times made reception extremely bad.

Probably the Lyall Bay area is suffering most from "howlers," and it behoves every set owner at Lyall Bay-Kilbirnie district to investigate the matter for himself, and ascertain at once if his set is in order.

There are times when the noise is positively deafening, and now that the inspector's van is "on the road" it would be as well if listeners took this hint and left no stone unturned to make sure their receiver does not howl; and if owners of one and two-valve sets, also owners of sets that were supposed to be neutralised, would take a hint, they would not take any risk of severe financial punishment from the Court through breaking the regulations, but would see to it that their sets are not used if capable of causing interference, until overhauled.

A receiver may have been guaranteed perfectly neutralised, but may have become denaturalised through various causes; and, again, the owner of a one or two-valve set should not expect to be able to bring in distant stations without causing interference. Like motor-cars, receivers have their limitations; just as a car has its limitations on "top gear."

Then, again, several "home made" sets are causing trouble from "howling valves"; there is no doubt that Lyall Bay suffers terribly from "howling valves," and each and every set owner should investigate the matter immediately, as I understand the radio inspector will, if offenders are caught, treat such a breach of regulations as very serious.

One and two-valve sets, also home-made sets, built up by novices, should not be used for distant stations; the most that they can be expected to do under reasonable conditions is to bring in the local station. Listeners owe it to themselves to try to eradicate this growing evil as quickly as possible.—R. Leslie Jones.

Quality in Transmission.

AS the owner of the first transmitting station in New Zealand some eight or nine years ago, when radio in this country was quite in its infancy—I am referring to the amateur station owned by the International Electric Co. of Wellington, transmitting from Courtenay Place—I have had many a growl on the deficiencies of our super-power station 2YA. Reception in Palmerston North from this station has been exceptionally poor—in fact, as a radio dealer I have avoided demonstrating on 2YA because of the poor modulation of that station. Station 2YA has, doubtless, been hearing good reports about station 2ZP, Palmerston North-Manawatu Radio Club, an amateur station operating here—and as you no doubt know, this station aims at clarity—both of music and speech. This station is getting known all over New Zealand, and Australia, too, as the only New Zealand station that sends out undistorted music.

This, however, is working around the point that I intend reaching. This is to give you a word of praise—the first that I have felt like giving since 2YA's inception. It is with regard to two concerts broadcast on Friday, June 22, and Saturday, June 23. These two transmissions were absolutely splendid—splendid in all respects and quite the best put over by 2YA since its opening last July. Alas, on the following nights the station was up to its old tricks again and station 2YA was "mushy."

Regarding the programmes sent out: The quality of these is indeed high, and the 2YA orchestra a fine combination, but what is the use of good programmes with a station that causes one to wonder whether murder is being committed in the studio as the performers sometimes seem to be in danger of choking—not only our performers, but, whisper it gently, even our worthy announcer? Well, Mr. Editor, I have had my say and feel much better. I've said nothing very important, so I feel that I ought to apologise for taking up some portion of your valuable time.—George R. Forrest, Forrest-Crosley Radio Co. Ltd.

"Megohm Appreciated."

I HAVE been a reader of your paper for some time—almost from its first appearance, and the contents have always been a source of great interest. The reading by me of the letters placed under the heading of "Our Mail Bag" has made me desirous of adding a little contribution. In my opinion, no words could be found to sufficiently praise the articles under the heading of "Mainly about Construction," by "Megohm." Whatever source these articles come from, I do not know, but if from an individual, he can be described only as an inexhaustible reservoir of radio knowledge, stinting nothing to impart some of it to his less expert fellows. I have constructed some apparatus according to his specifications, and know of many others who have done likewise with other various radio circuits and equipment, described in his articles, and if plans and specifications are reasonably adhered to, the results to say the least, have left nothing to be desired. I have not seen much direct commendation of "Megohm" and his articles, but I am certain that I am voicing the gratitude of very numerous constructors, when I express my profound thanks, and pray that we may never open the "Radio Record" to find the old familiar heading is no more. Wishing prosperity to your paper and everything connected with radio, success (except squealers).—I am, Constructor.

A Gramophone Night.

MAY I suggest a novel programme which has been discussed and thought out by our "listeners' circle" in this suburb? Most people have a gramophone, and can boast of one or two special records, which they are proud of. Now, if there were a competition for the best gramophone record put on the air, on a special evening set aside for this competition of gramophone records only, these people could bring their "special favourite" and let others hear their selection.

The public could then vote (per coupon in R.R., where a perforated half-sheet for voting coupons would be a good idea), and determine the most popular record.

Now, if there were a prize of half a dozen records for the most votes, and quarter of a dozen records for second prize, this, and the satisfaction of letting others hear their favourite, would be enough inducement; and the only cost to the R.B.C. for an evening's entertainment of high-class artists and orchestras. The voting coupons would make interesting reading, and would give a good guide to the class of records needed for the afternoon sessions, admitted to be the best programme, but missed by the most of us. Thirty records (one side only), could be played in two hours, and if there were many more than was needed, they could be held over, and it could be made a fortnightly evening.

High class music and nursery rhymes made into quartets may be very nice, but when heard every night, become wearisome. Of all the records put on in the afternoon, I have not heard a "Billy Williams," and I should imagine that laugh would "go over" good. It would be a better proposition for listeners if the records were bought, than have the same old fox-trots that are put on and tried to be made popular. Have you ever thought of this? Why is 2YA like the Wellington Hotels just before the Great War?—Because they have never been guilty of staying open a minute after 10 o'clock, whereas Auckland and Christchurch are not particular to 20 minutes overtime.—Seaton Listeners.

Some Suggestions..

MAY I add my word of praise to your most interesting weekly, the "Radio Record." It is both a joy and an instruction to read it, and I, for one, would not be without it. When reading the mail bag section, I notice that a number of listeners condemn the programmes put on the air by the B.C.C. This, in my opinion, is very unjust, as I have listened to programmes in Australia, which are not even up to the standard of our New Zealand programmes. The concerts in 2YA on Sunday nights are an absolute treat, and worth 30s. a

* Children's Sessions for Next Week *

AT 1YA.

TUESDAY, JULY 10.—Mostly tiny tots assisting Uncle George tonight. Miss Blamires is bringing her younger pupils, and what excitement among them!

WEDNESDAY.—Uncle Tom in a happy mood, so don't miss any of Wednesday's bedtime hour. Cousins will give songs and recitations.

THURSDAY.—Peter Pan has the ever popular Bayfield Choir with him, in choruses and songs. There will also be stories, conundrums and birthday greetings.

FRIDAY.—Nod in charge with stories and birthday greetings. There will also be cousins singing and reciting, and Captain James will take us into foreign lands.

SATURDAY.—Cheers! The Farmer's Boy is visiting Cinderella and bringing with him The Milk Maid. They will entertain the radio family with humour and song. Letters and birthday greetings.

SUNDAY.—Children's Song Service conducted by Uncle Leo, assisted by cousins from Beresford street Sunday School.

AT 2YA.

MONDAY, JULY 9.—Aunt Gwen and Uncle Jeff will be there with stories, greetings and puzzles, and the cousins from the Thorndon Normal School, Std. 6, with their songs and choruses will cheer the heart of each little man and maid.

TUESDAY.—Big Brother Jack will give his birthday greetings and then along will come Uncle Stewart just in time to say: "All aboard the radio train," and on the train, to cheer us as we go, will be Mrs. Menard's clever little pupils.

THURSDAY.—A jolly little hour to-night, children:—Aunt Gwen to greet you;—Cousin Zena will sing; and the drum and trumpet band from Petone will give you such a cheery hour, you will want it all over again.

FRIDAY.—Uncle Ernest to-night, children, with his happy greetings and trip into far countries that we all enjoy so much, and the dear little cousins from the Kelburn Normal School will sing their songs and chorus.

SATURDAY.—Uncle Toby and Aunt Gwen will sing, tell stories, and talk about birthday parties. Cousin Lynette will recite, and the pupils of Miss Mavis Tolan will please you with pianoforte solos.

SUNDAY.—The Children's Service will be conducted by Uncle Ernest assisted by Girl Guides.

AT 3YA.

MONDAY.—JULY 9.—Here is "Scatterjoy" with a host of surprises, and a box of tricks—and she scatters joy wherever she goes, and whenever she tells her delightful stories. So listen in, you little ones, and become her friends, and you are sure to be happy. She will tell you all sorts of hints how to keep warm these winter days. The Munro trio will be here, too, to-night, so you see we are in for a very happy hour.

WEDNESDAY.—Uncle Peter and Mother Hubbard—with droll stories and sweet little songs, and the boys of Mr. Chennell's school choir are singing for us.

THURSDAY.—Chuckie and Aunt Pat wave a welcome to you to-night, with a laugh and song. Miss Naare Hooper's pupils trotting merrily along to 3YA this evening—so get the earphones and loudspeakers ready.

FRIDAY.—Big Brother and "The Captain" in charge, and pupils from the Wharenui School with songs and music for all.

SATURDAY.—Uncle Sam and Aunt May—what more do you want now, to-night, but these two dear people at the microphone with songs, stories, fun and jokes?

SUNDAY.—Children's Song Service which Uncle David will conduct, and the hymns are to be sung by scholars from St. Albans Baptist Church Sunday School.

AT 4YA.

TUESDAY, JULY 10.—The Girl Guides will give a programme of songs and stories from 4YA, to-night. And Brother Bill will take the family round the Tower of London. Did anybody tell you that there are no longer any castles used in England? Well, they are wrong; this is a castle still used like the brave old castles of long ago. And there are some most fascinating stories of things that have happened there during past hundreds of years. You listen and hear. Some riddles, many birthdays, lots of letters, and the wonderful radio postie with his fat bag of good things.

FRIDAY.—The Albany Street Boys' Brass Band back again? Well, they just had to come again because they did so well last time. There's a little chap, knee-high-to-a-grasshopper who plays a great brass instrument that makes notes as deep as a coal mine; indeed, they are all little chaps from a primary school, but, my, how splendidly they play together with bandmaster Hanna beating time. And—but what's the good of telling when you can tune in and hear? Aunt Shiela and Big Brother Bill take the family another trip. Riddles, bags full of letters, birthdays galore, and the radio postie flitting everywhere,

year on their own. I also read of a number of critics complaining of the poor transmission of the New Zealand stations. My advice to the most of them would be to look to their sets instead of complaining of distortion, etc. of the stations. For my part, I have tried various sets until I got one to suit my tastes. In regard to DX hunting (an interesting hobby), I have picked up 23 stations in all with my present set, a five-valve three-dial control set. The log is as follows: 9 New Zealand, 11 Australian, 3 Japanese, 5 American stations, and, of course, am not finished yet. I would, if I may, suggest to the B.C.C. that they put on as many banjo, mandolin, and other solos as possible, as I find they come through best of all. Also that they try to continue their programmes from the children's session till closing down at 10 o'clock without a break. This, I think, would give the announcer more time to get through the information session. As it is now, he has often to go over some items very briefly and too quickly to give the listener a chance to understand them. Yours in sympathy.—"Satisfied Indeed."

The Station Orchestra.

THERE are two questions which at the present time are paramount in the minds of most of the listeners to 2YA. First are the programmes by the orchestra, such as were promised; second, is the orchestra giving service commensurate to the cost thereof?

In connection with the first it was understood that classical music was not to predominate, but rather light opera and jazz and dance music. There was also a promise of dinner music, with the children's session commencing half an hour earlier. Taking the programmes for the week ending June 30, the orchestra plays 94 minutes of classical, 40 minutes of light opera, and 30 minutes of request. As fully one-third of the request items are classical, we have practically two-thirds classical against one-third light opera and dance music. In addition to this, we get the Symons-Bellwood Trio, and a great number of other classical and semi-classical items. I think that the majority of the listeners enjoy the best music well played, but there is no doubt that a surfeit of classical is just as bad as a surfeit of jazz, and I think that the majority of the listeners-in would like to see the positions reversed, say, one-third classical and two-thirds light opera and dance and jazz items.

In connection with the second question, I have no idea what the orchestra is costing the company, but would point out that for the week ending June 30 it is only on the air for 164 minutes, or roughly 2½ hours. The orchestra is undoubtedly a first-class one, and the artists must be paid a reasonable salary, but when it is considered that the picture orchestras play as long as this every night in the week, it does not appear that the company is getting sufficient service from the orchestra commensurate to the cost thereof. Dinner music for 30 minutes, and also a greater amount of dance and jazz items would no doubt help to bring up the average of the class of music that appeals to the popular taste.

It might be interesting to compare the orchestra's performances with that of the 3LO Synco-Symphonists

who were on the air on the average of 600 minutes per week, 38 different occasions and playing well over 200 items. Now Victoria (3LO) has always had and still has more listeners in than the whole of the rest of Australia, and broadcasts programmes in which comedy items and light music predominate. This shows that although the average listener can enjoy classical music well rendered, if the license figures are to be maintained and increased it can only be done by retaining the listeners' interest with programmes containing a majority of comedy, jazz, light opera and novelty items. If 3LO is taken as a criterion of popular taste (and the figures go to show that this is so) a comparison of any week's evening programme shows that 2YA is undoubtedly not catering for the public taste.

The figures for the licenses in Australia may be of interest:—

Victoria	136,481
New South Wales ..	75,869
Queensland	24,920
South Australia	19,452
West Australia	3,780
Tasmania	2,838

Total for rest of Australia £126,850

P.S.—I would like to see other listeners' views expressed in the "Record."

Yours, etc.,

"WANGANUI."

Battle of Giants.

COULD there be a possible chance of 2YA picking up the great fight for New Zealand boxing fans on short-wave and rebroadcast for listeners? All New Zealand people have got their thoughts on our champion, Tom Heeneey, who is climbing the ladder fast. 2YA made a very good rebroadcast of the landing of the Southern Cross, and if conditions are good they should not have much difficulty

in rebroadcasting the great fight, and many listeners will back me up in this letter hoping that 2YA will attempt something in the matter.—S. Ellis, Okato.

[We think our correspondent may rest assured that everything possible will be done to satisfy the desires of listeners on this point. There has recently been installed at Mt. Victoria a short-wave receiving set for the reception of overseas transmissions. It is hoped this will prove useful on the forthcoming occasion.—Ed.]

Auckland's Fight Appreciated.

I MUST congratulate the announcer at the fight broadcast from Auckland on Friday evening, between Hay and Casey, for the most excellent running descriptions he gave of the fight. I listen to most of the Sydney fights, and have also heard most of those broadcast in New Zealand, but the above is the first I have heard broadcast from 1YA. Last night's announcer was easily the best I have heard on the air in New Zealand, and I would like to see the Broadcasting Company, if they are broadcasting any important fights from Wellington, obtain his services as announcer. I think the sporting broadcasts are appreciated by the majority of listeners and there will be no objection raised provided we do not receive too much of them. Personally, I could easily stand a fight once a week, but the other people may not like it as often as this. However, with the four stations in New Zealand it should be possible to broadcast a sporting item at least once a fortnight from each station, as part of the evening programme.—"F.J.H.," Wanganui.

S-O-S

TRAVEL IN COMFORT BY CAR

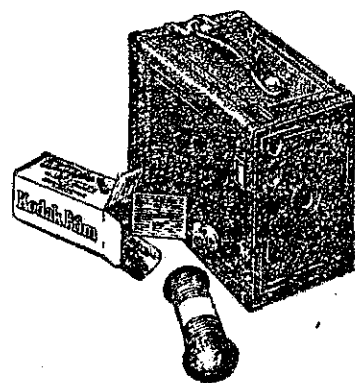
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