

## Hot Shots

## Editorial Notes

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**T**HE material is now arriving for the new 500ft. mast for 4YA.

**C**HURCHURCH is to have a Radio Olympia at the end of this month.

**F**ULLERS paid Gladys Moncrieff £200 a week for the "Rio Rita" season.

**A**DUNEDIN citizen has acquired a block of land on which he intends to build a hundred houses.

**T**HERE is a possibility of a Russian opera company visiting New Zealand in the near future.

**U**NOFFICIAL reports suggest that the new 2YA might be built at Titahi Bay or Pencarrow.

**T**WENTY thousand pounds is being spent on the erection of a new block of flats in Christchurch.

**T**HREE hundred applications have been received for four vacancies on the staff of the Auckland city traffic officers' department.

**A**UCKLAND'S Mayor, Mr. Ernest Davis, last week bought 50 tons of coal for distribution among the needy unemployed of the Queen City.

**A**CHRISTCHURCH drapery firm plans to install an orchestra when it opens its new and commodious tea-rooms.

**T**HE word "Allah" has been banned from B.B.C. dance programmes. It is thought that its use in a flip-pant manner might offend Mohammedans.

**W**HEN the orchestra at a Wellington dance the other evening played only the first few bars of the National Anthem, the dancers sang it through to the finish.

**A**HORSE standing in a right-of-way beside a busy Wellington street on Saturday morning proceeded to eat the shrubs standing outside a nurseryman's shop.

**T**WO new Vildebeeste bombing planes, making six in all, arrived last week from England and are being assembled at the Hobsonville Air Base.

**P**ERMISSION has been given by the Auckland City Council to the Auckland unemployed to hold a monster torchlight procession through the main streets to the Domain on August 1, where an anti-war demonstration is to be held.

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## "WANDERING MICROPHONE"

**T**HE "wandering microphone" has not yet begun to play an important part in New Zealand broadcasting, but as its use grows in Europe and America—and it is undoubtedly being used to a greater extent abroad—the reaction will eventually be felt in the Antipodes. The practice of taking the microphone about the country—to fairs, into homely cottages, to snowy heights or the depths of coal mines—is a commendable one, and one that is likely to bring to listeners a clearer understanding of "how the other half lives." Some months ago the "Radio Record" suggested that a microphone at a real Maori gathering would be both entertaining and educative to thousands of New Zealanders who are lamentably ignorant of the ways of our native race. The song of the bellbird, coming from the depths of the bush, could also provide the "wandering microphone" with a subject. Experiments of this kind would at least demonstrate how rich a texture of natural beauty and homely customs might be caught by the microphone.

## EXPLOITATION

**B**Y the careful cultivation of a broadcasting personality and voice many international reputations have been built since the coming of wireless. In New Zealand there is less opportunity for performers to woo the microphone—limitations of population and revenue mean that the performer must make his broadcasting appearances infrequently, for the service is too limited to allow any casual speaker to earn a satisfactory living in front of the microphone. There are a few exceptions, of course.

In America the position is very different. By the adroit exploitation of his voice and manner Father Coughlin has built up in the United States a vast organisation of fan listeners whose voluntary subscriptions provide him with all the money he wants to buy time on the air—and the best hours. By a similar exploitation Senator Huey Long has extended the influence of his slogans and his political machine throughout the Southern States, and not all the counter-blows of General Johnson have been able to stop it. It is no idle suggestion that the successful wooing of public favour by Coughlin and Long has been in part responsible for the breaking up of the New Deal.

## BLIND LISTENERS

**T**HERE is probably no section of the community which more appreciates the benefit of wireless than the blind. To these people the turn of a knob opens up a world of light and colour. Sir Ian Fraser, himself a war-blinded victim, has said: Broadcasting not only passes many congenial hours, but removes that sense of isolation from which the blind are apt to suffer. Blind men are well informed; they feel they are taking part in the news, the sport, the politics, the philosophy and the progress of the time.

The B.B.C. has received many letters of appreciation from blind listeners in various parts of the Empire, while the New Zealand Broadcasting Board frequently finds in its mail a grateful letter from a sightless person. To most of us broadcasting is becoming much the same as gas and electricity—we accept it as a part of everyday life. But when it is looked at from the point of view of the blind it takes on a new significance—a significance that should prevent both the able-bodied and the afflicted from accepting it too blandly.

**C**HURCHURCH High School old girls will hold their first ball soon. Twenty debutantes are to be presented.

**T**HE wheelbarrow which figured in the Wheelbarrow Derby was fitted with a rubber tire.

**R**OLLER skating is enjoying a boom in Christchurch, a new rink having been opened last week.

**A**MALGAMATED THEATRES' new Auckland house, the "Roxy" opened last week and is doing big business.

**A**NNA STEN tore up the film contract she had with Samuel Goldwyn. It was worth £52,000.

**S**EVERAL houses in a Wellington suburb are being painted green—evidently the rage from Sydney has caught on.

**S**OME Auckland unemployed have been disposing of cheap issues of working boots to pawnshops. One shop is full of Government issue boots!

**M**ADAME ROSS-BRODIE, well-known Canterbury singer, sang at a big community sing in the Sydney Town Hall last week.

**T**HIS year marks the centenary of the building of Buckingham Palace. It was first occupied by William the Fourth.

**A**FTER giving interviews to the two Auckland dailies on Saturday morning, Yehudi Menuhin refused to give any more till Monday.

**D**UNEDIN Toc H's campaign for collecting funds for servicing relief camp radio sets continues, a local paper having collected more than £50.

**I**N Auckland last week-end one or two "consolation parties" were given for footballers who missed selection in the All Blacks' team for Britain.

**T**HAT Christchurch was the most over-seated city in the world, was the statement made by Sir Ben. Fuller when discussing Christchurch's theatres.

**S**AYS L. Beavis, of Silverdale, builder of the Gospel ship, in last Wednesday's "Star": "No funds for New Gospel Ship; will push wheelbarrow, Auckland to Wellington, play Hawaiian guitar on way, to raise funds."