

## Hot Shots

## Editorial Notes

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**DESTRUCTION** by fire of Southland's Garston Hotel has robbed winter sports enthusiasts of a headquarters.

**YEHUDI MENUHIN** was responsible for three crowded houses at the Auckland Town Hall last week.

**CHINA** has prohibited the broadcasting of ghost stories and songs that are a little "risque."

**"POPULAR Variety Hour"**—

When the rich but very eccentric maiden aunt drops in on Sunday afternoon.

**WRESTLING** announcer in Christchurch last week: "One of the men is wrestling in bare feet and the other in blue tights."

**FOR** all the persons involved in one "send-a-shilling" chain letter to get full value for their money, 244,140,625 would have to dig up a shilling.

**AT** the last meeting of the Invercargill City Council, the Deputy-Mayor accused the Mayor of adopting "Mussolini tactics."

**THE** housing problem is so acute in Wellington that some overseas arrivals are still looking for a house three months after landing.

**E. R. COOPER**, brilliant Christchurch student now studying science in England, has attracted the attention of Lord Rutherford.

**A** DUNEDIN community sing in aid of funds for providing and maintaining radio sets in relief camps realised £150 last week.

**ADVERTISING** opportunity missed: Gladys Moncrieff drank a well-known New Zealand cough mixture before appearing before the 1YA microphone last week.

**WHERE** is Victor Penny, the young Takapuna (Auckland) inventor, assaulted on the night of June 19? Since he left hospital last week his whereabouts has been a mystery.

**GETTING** in early! An Auckland man advertised in the "Herald" last week intimating that he was a candidate for an Auckland seat as an Independent Labourite, "with a view of becoming Prime Minister."

**ASKED** why last Wednesday, July 4, was a day of great importance, an Epsom schoolboy told his teacher that it was because Auckland retained the Ranfurly Shield that afternoon!

Wellington, July 12, 1935.

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## THREE BIRTHDAYS

**TEN** years ago New Zealand was becoming "radio-conscious." On July 18, 1925, the Postmaster-General (Sir James Parr) entered into an agreement with Messrs. William Goodfellow and A. R. Harris for the formation of a company to undertake a radio telephone broadcasting service for the Dominion. Five weeks later the Radio Broadcasting Company of New Zealand was brought into existence for the purpose of equipping and maintaining broadcasting stations in the four centres. Auckland was the first city to be provided with a new station, the premises in Newton, lately vacated in favour of the new studios in Shortland Street, being brought into action less than a year after the formation of the company. The Christchurch station was opened a month later, and 2YA, then the most powerful station in the Empire, followed in July, 1927. The Dunedin station had been remodelled, and was operated in the Exhibition grounds under the call sign of VLDN. In May, 1926, 4YA was opened on its present site.

Since then New Zealand broadcasting has undergone many changes. Control of the service passed out of the hands of the Broadcasting Company about three and a half years ago when the New Zealand Broadcasting Board came into existence. Hours have been extended, new stations have been built—the entire national system will have been completely replaced before another year passes, policies have been revised, important overseas artists have been engaged, negotiations have been entered into with the B.B.C. for the sending out to New Zealand of outstanding recorded programmes. When 2YA was opened there were 18,000 licensed listeners in the country; to-day there are nearly 160,000.

Another birthday that falls within the week is that of the opening of the new 2YA, then the most powerful station in the British Empire. To the old Broadcasting Company must go much of the credit for putting Wellington on the map. The station on Mount Victoria became the talk of wireless enthusiasts the world over and messages from such distant places as Alaska, Tokio, Vancouver, Rio de Janeiro testified to the strength of the new station. At the opening in 1927 the Prime Minister (Rt. Hon. J. G. Coates) said:

The new station . . . is ready, should the time ever arrive, to become part of our national equipment. If it is not equal to actual personal contact it is, at any rate, the next best thing.

It is eight years ago since those remarks were made and yet, so greatly has radio advanced—and so greatly, sad to say, have fears of war and crises grown—that 2YA is shortly to be rebuilt and given 10 times its present strength, "in case of a national emergency." Let us hope that the broadcasting stations of New Zealand will be called upon to serve no other purpose than that of giving education and entertainment to a happy, contented people.

The third birthday of the week is our own. Eight years ago the "Radio Record" presented its first paper to the public—16 pages of matter. To-day we celebrate the occasion by publishing a 68-page paper. In those eight years the "Radio Record" has experienced all the vicissitudes associated with the Great Depression. But, unlike some of our contemporaries, we laid down a policy and went forth, fully prepared, to meet the Dragon. An editorial in our first issue said:

The "Radio Record" will offer a meeting ground for all points of view in relation to broadcasting. Where criticism is deserved and is made in the constructive sense without rancour or bias, it will receive full hospitality and courtesy in our columns. . . . It will be only by mutual co-operation and mutual understanding that the common desire will be attained, and in that spirit we are satisfied that our paper will constitute a definite service.

To-day, with readers in every corner of the country, our responsibilities are greater than ever, but we feel—and we hope our readers feel, too—that we have not wavered from the ideals set down in that first issue of July, 1927.

**NEW YORK** has published a "Who's Who in Crime"—a considerable volume.

**A WHEELBARROW** Derby was organised by a Christchurch borough last week.

**"GRIEF GOES OVER,"** new play of Merton Hodge, formerly of Wanganui, is enjoying a big success in London.

**MADGE ELLIOTT** and Cyril Ritchard, popular Australian musical comedy stars, are now to be married in August.

**FULLERS** may build flats on the empty section next to St. James Theatre in Courtenay Place, Wellington.

**"THE TATTLER"** (London) describes the Right Hon. G. W. Forbes as a "well-known lawyer."

**"WE** Telegraph Flowers."—Wellington advertisement. Our congratulations to an enterprising P. and T. Department.

**UNLIGHTED** cycles were responsible for 180 riders having their names taken in one Wellington suburb street last week.

**EDWINA BOOTH**, starred in "Trader Horn" in 1929, is still ill from a disease contracted in the African jungle during the filming of the picture.

**A** RADIO version of a new film, "Death at Broadcasting House" was broadcast from nine national Australian stations recently.

**"BROADCASTED"** is one of the last words one would expect an announcer to use, yet a well-known voice offended in this way the other night.

**SOME** Dunedin listeners are wondering if their old-time sets will take kindly to the new high-powered 4YA when it opens.

**BROADCASTING** in New Zealand is officially 10 years old this month. Some critics evidently still believe in the old saw, "Spare the rod—"

**THIS** issue marks the "Radio Record's" eighth birthday. But don't let that worry you—tops and marbles are out of season, and we always choose our own cigars.

**WELLINGTON** daily, reports U.S.A. Independence Day deaths: "Fifty-four died as a result of motor accidents, 52 were downed . . ." Did the cars throw the other two up in the air?