

Ghosts to Live Again

Radio Will Bring the
Great Gamesmen of
The Past to the Micro-
phone in New Zealand

Written For The "Record"

By

JACK DAW



W. G. GRACE.
... Cricket Giant of the Past.

THERE are times when radio can be as moving as the stage and the films. Most of those times are when some actual event of world-wide importance is being broadcast. Such a broadcast was the farewell of Edward the Eighth to his people.

But there are other times when it can capture the imagination so completely that the world of fancy becomes as real as the world of fact.

Then radio takes its place among the arts. It jumps in one bound from the pedestrian flats of everyday goings-on to the high peaks of artistic achievement.

TWICE in six months I have attended radio previews that, to me, were as fascinating as any Gordon Mirams has had in his film work. The first was "U.97," the story of a German submarine, and this play is now being released at IYA.

The second was the first recording of an NBS series called "Scenes from the Sporting Past," which I heard last week.

It was a recording of an imaginary broadcast by a radio announcer at the great cricket Test between England and Australia at the Kennington Oval on August 29, 1882.

I WON'T say there aren't weaknesses in it. To my mind, there are one or two. But nothing big was ever done without some weaknesses in it. But I can say this:

If the rest of the series is up to the standard of the one I heard last week, this is a series that is going to keep both grandfathers and grandsons sitting up long past their bedtime.

It is going to stir the fancy of every man who ever buckled on his pads, took his bat in his hand, and walked out the long way to the wicket—whether he made a "duck" or a century.

It is going to set the mind of every man and boy who has ever read the names of W. G. Grace and Spofforth, the Australian demon bowler, and Blackham, the prince of wicketkeepers, racing excitedly back into the past and staying there for half an hour, living there, rather, and coming reluctantly out again into the present.

IT all began with one of those most valuable but intangible commodities: an idea. Why not, said an NBS officer, give a broadcast of these great outstanding sporting contests of the past by an announcer, just as it would have come over the air if they had had radio in those days?

Why not give a broadcast of the famous cricket Test of 1882, when Australia just beat England by seven runs; of the All Black versus Scotland Rugby match of 1905, when George Smith got the ball at last and scored the winning try; of the great boxing match, say, when Jack Johnson beat Jim Jeffries; and of a classic race when a New Zealand horse first won the Melbourne Cup?



DON BRADMAN.
... Wizard of the Present.

THE NBS staff got to work. They didn't quite know how it would turn out. There would have to be crowd voices, and the sound of clapping and cheers. The frenzy of an excitement long past would have to be recaptured and the tension of long-dead moments recreated. It turned out all right.

They told me the announcer of this long-past cricket match got so lost in the scene that when the last wicket fell he shouted: "He's out. H—, he's out!" He was seeing and feeling the whole
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