

# DEAD MEN DO TELL TALES

Radio Still Gives the  
Quaint Stories of  
Hollywood's Country  
Church Parson

By  
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PARSON HOPKINS.

... *Death after operations.*

**T**HERE is a saying that dead men tell no tales. To-day they do. The saying was invented before radio.

There is one man who still tells his tales, quaintly original, spoken in the slow Will Rogers drawl of West America, yet sharply pointed to drive home the precepts of religion. His tales do this so well, with such remarkable simplicity and effectiveness, that to-day in New Zealand you will often hear men say:

"I'm not what you would call religious, but all the same I listen every morning to the Country Church of Hollywood."

The man who tells these tales, Parson Josiah Hopkins, has died.

**Y**ET, through the ether, the old horse Dan still clip-clops along the white road to "meeting"; Parson Josiah still chats along the way with his wife Sarah.

She tells him of what the Widow Walton said that morning—"If you brood over your troubles you'll have a perfect hatch!"—and he fastens on to that. It's an idea for his talk at "meeting," he will tell the "folks" about it.

They go on chatting for a time about the hen setting on some eggs in the barn. "Did you see if she was hatching, Josiah?" Or about Grandpa Whortle, who says he is rich—because no one can take the

sunsets away from him. This is the key to their simple philosophy.

**T**HE parson says "Gittup" to the horse Dan, and they clop along the road again until the church bells sound in the distance, the "folks" greet Josiah and Sarah, and they go in to the service, where listeners—"and, mind you," some of them say, "I'm not what you'd call a religious man"—hastily follow them.

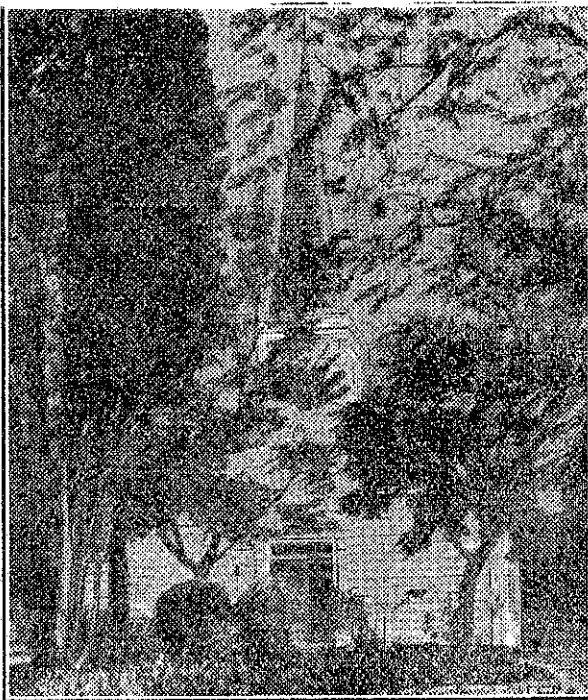
And now Parson Hopkins has died as the "result of complications which set in following two major operations."

**N**EWs of his death reached New Zealand in a round-about way. "The Country Church of Hollywood" session has an extremely large following of listeners in New Zealand hospitals. Every Sunday morning they listen to the sessions at 11 o'clock from 1ZB, 2ZB, 3ZB and 4ZB. It means, as Parson Josiah Hopkins would have said, "a whole heap to them."

One of these hospital listeners to the 2ZB session, at "The Shelters," Narian Hospital, Blenheim, had listened to these services for a long time. Parson Josiah and his wife Sarah became very real and close to her. She wrote to Parson Josiah. She received this reply:—

We did greatly appreciate your letter recently received. Parson Josiah Hopkins passed away last January as the result of complications which set in following two major operations. The broadcasts which you have been hearing are transcriptions which were sold shortly before his death. We were unable to recall these after his passing. May God wonderfully and richly bless you.—Sincerely, Sarah Hopkins.

**F**OR, as the "Record" pointed out some months ago Parson Josiah, his wife Sarah and the Country Church of



... *And his country church.*

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