

THE HOME FORUM

In Defence of Christmas Carols

NOEL (Wellington): I was very sorry to see you publish such rubbish as the letter written by G.S.B. of Auckland on the subject of carol-singing ("Record" 16/12/38). The only conclusion I can reach is that G.S.B. is an iconoclastic red fed. In the first place, the broadcasting stations do not overdo the playing of carols around about Christmas time. In the second place, even if they do play records of carols, it's the right and seasonable thing to do at this time of the year, and we in New Zealand are still British enough, thank Heaven, to insist on preserving the characteristically British nature of the festival. Thirdly, G.S.B. doesn't know his Bing Crosby. "Venite Adoramus" is, in my opinion, quite the finest thing this singer has ever done. G.S.B.'s sneer at his local brass band is, I imagine, nothing but cheap sarcasm. It isn't even funny. If G.S.B. goes half the way with Scrooge's sentiments about Christmas, I myself sometimes go half the way with those who recommend boiling in oil for iconoclasts.

"It's the Right and Seasonable Thing to Do" ... West Coaster Complains About 3ZR, Greymouth ... Earlier Dance Programmes Wanted

"Museum"

C. HOLM (Kumara): Perhaps it would be of interest to the New Zealand public and overseas people intending to visit the West Coast of the South Island, to know that the NBS has opened a museum in Greymouth. This is known as 3ZR, which was formerly a very live radio station with good sessions and up-to-date programmes, but the NBS, not knowing what to do with their old recordings, suddenly had a brainwave, and the 3ZR museum is the result. The poor old Coast has had the commencement of "The Mirth Parade," "Coconut Grove Ambassadors," and "Dad and Dave" foisted upon it, with "The Japanese Houseboy" and "Eb and Zeb" in view. I don't think it would be amiss for the Tourist Bureau to include the present 3ZR in its itinerary as an antique of interest.

[Not all the features mentioned are either ancient or unpopular. Even "Eb and Zeb" have enthusiastic followers, "Record" readers have affirmed.—Ed.]

What Do YOU Think About It?

READERS are invited to take advantage of the Home Forum for the expression of their views. Letters, which should be as brief as possible (maximum approximately 200 words), should be addressed to the Home Forum, c/o "Radio Record," Box 1680, Wellington.

"Jazzy Stuff"

Earlier Dance Programmes (Thames): Your correspondent "Cayley," of Pio Pio, who wants to bar all "jazzy stuff," irrespective of the fact that some people enjoy dance music, is obviously a person who thinks that everything should be arranged to suit his own particular tastes. If dance music affects him as he says, it would be much better, for his friends, if someone instructed him in the art of switching off his radio. His suggestion that "This insidious poison is responsible for the numerous strikes all over the country" is so patently absurd that it can be safely ignored. Personally, I think most fair-minded listeners will agree that quite a good case can be put forward by those desiring more and earlier dance programmes.

A glance at the "Record" programmes brings to light the following fact:—

On Mondays, the earliest YA dance session is 10 p.m.; Tuesdays, 9.20 p.m.; Wednesdays, 10 p.m.; Thursdays, 9.20 p.m.; Fridays, 10 p.m., and Saturdays, 9.5 p.m.

That is one night 9.5, two nights 9.20 and three night at 10. With four YA stations on the air, I do not think it is too much to ask that one station each night should put over a dance programme, commencing at 8. "Cayley" would then be left with three powerful stations to choose from in his search for "a he-man singing a he-man's song."

Performing Rights

From A. E. Rolf, attorney in New Zealand for Australasian Performing Right Association Ltd.: In spite of all that has been said and written on the subject, the strangest views seem still to prevail on the rights of the composer. In other directions it is accepted that the labourer is worthy of his hire, but because the composer's contribution to the wealth of the country is of the intangible kind, his "hire" is sometimes begrudged him, and he seems to be regarded as "fair game" for anyone who can filch his work and play it in public without his knowledge.

The composer is sometimes a man of genius. Sometimes he is not. But in any case, he is a man—or woman—with the same needs as other men—food, a house, friends and sometimes a family, sometimes even a holiday. And if unthinking

people seize on his works without so much as a "by your leave" and perform them in public without paying for them, he is denied all these and has to depend on public or private charity.

In order to safeguard his rights, the composer is a member of the Performing Right movement, on which he depends for the collection of fees due to him for the performance of his works in public. Legally, of course, they are his works, and no one may use them—that is, play them in public—without his permission. But the modern composer cannot check the number of times any particular piece of music is publicly performed, so he commissions the Performing Right Association to do it for him.

Some people seem to think that the Performing Right Association is a self-appointed ogre, which stalks the land preventing people from enjoying good music. Actually, it is nothing of the sort. It is the composer himself acting in a corporate capacity to collect the dues allowed him by the copyright law.

Praise From Playwright**"Record" in London**

FROM the well-known young New Zealander, Merton Hodge, who is now one of London's leading playwrights, comes the following note, written after he had seen a copy of the new "Record":

Dear Trevor Lane,—I did not know that such a good paper as the "Radio Record" existed in New Zealand. I think it is excellent — interesting, meaty and up-to-the-minute. I do most warmly congratulate you. It is a sort of "Variety" of Down Under.

Yours sincerely,

MERTON HODGE,

48 Ebury Street,
London, S.W.1.

Congratulations on Christmas Issue

FROM Reg. Felton (Paramount Film Service (N.Z.) Ltd.): May I express my pleasure in seeing such a fine publication as the special issue you have published for Christmas. It is certainly fine to see the "Radio Record" making such an enterprising move.

reader of Robin Hood's exploits, and one who is eagerly anticipating the first release date of Warner Brothers' colour film, "Robin Hood," I should like to take this opportunity of pointing out that Dr. Claire Weekes, in an article in the Sydney "Sun-Guardian," points out that Robin Hood was mentioned in the Domesday Book, and there are "no grounds for disbelieving in his actual existence." Dr. Weekes also mentions that several trees associated with actual happenings of Robin Hood and his men are still in existence and can be seen in Sherwood Forest, near Ollerton, England.

Correction

Will Bishop (Wadestown): Several of your readers have drawn my attention to an interview under the headline, "What Happens if You Have a Fine Voice?", published in your issue of December 2. Brief reference is made therein to my good friend Humphrey Bishop, who is described as "of Wellington" and who is "well known to New Zealand radio listeners for his songs at the piano." Now Humphrey suffers neither of these disabilities, whereas I, alas, am afflicted by both, and so the answer to the question asked in your headline appears to be rather obvious. It seems to me that an apology may be due to someone—probably to Walter Kingsley.

The Jews

Anti-Fascist (Napier): There has been a lot of talk recently, not only in the "Radio Record" about Hitler's anti-Jewish purge, and whether or not he has any justification for such harsh treatment. Quite regardless of whether Jews hold a commanding position in world finance, the fact remains that any advantage they hold is through sheer ability. In affairs of business and finance, they are definitely superior to the Gentiles, and consequently they are entitled to any superiority they may hold. Hitler has talked a lot about the harsh treatment meted out to the Sudeten minority in Czechoslovakia, but it was nothing to Germany's treatment of her Jewish minority. Hitler must eventually crash, and when he does it will probably be found that the Nazi party's pogroms were its supreme mistake.

Famous Painting

Tired (Auckland): Contributors to recent Home Forums of the "Record" have endeavoured to shed some light on Moore-Jones's famous painting of the donkey. It is strange why the controversy should be revived at all. About a year ago, I seem to remember, papers right through New Zealand discussed the painting at length, and countless people came forward with fresh light on the mystery. I forget what the final conclusion was. After all, does it matter?

Answer to Correspondent

W. J. F. (Hastings): Other papers, too, lift material from the "Record" without acknowledgement and without any attempt at rewriting. But we don't lose any sleep about it.

Weekly Crossword Puzzle

By RICHARD H. TINGLEY

ACROSS

1—Frank
2—Distant
3—An exclamation
4—Cognizant
5—Unclose, poetic
6—Vorn for bait
7—A fruit
8—Return
9—Finds the sum
10—Most terrible
11—Strips
12—Quantity taken
13—One time
14—(pl.)
15—Those who excel
16—Any line
17—Ped
18—Arranges in
19—Methodical manner
20—Article of apparel
21—Front back
22—Varbled
23—Unit of electric capacity
24—Coating with thin
25—Layer of metal
26—Proverbs
27—Thin, narrow
28—Trip
29—Of exposed
30—Endeavors
31—Before

DOWN

1—Cleaves
2—In favor of
3—Imitated
4—Lives
5—A drug (pl.)
6—A beast of burden
7—Incites
8—Walked
9—Long narrow piece
10—Dibble
11—Chill
12—A farinaceous meal
13—Narrow rooms
14—Supporting the Union Cause 1861-'65
15—Instruction
16—Hostelry
17—Encourage
18—Fury
19—Famish
20—Confronted
21—Idolize
22—Crow-like bird
23—Change
24—A bristle
25—Moisture condensed at night
26—Place out
27—Use needle and thread

C	A	P	E	L	A	C	O	R	B	S
O	R	A	L	O	D	E	V	E	A	L
W	A	R	S	C	O	N	D	E	N	S
D	E	S	K	S	O	R	T	E	D	
A	G	O	A	S	S	U	M	E		
F	A	N	C	Y	T	R	E	A	D	L
A	V	E	R	R	O	E	T	I	E	R
R	E	D	U	C	E	R	I	S	L	E
S	E	V	E	R	S	A	R	E		
A	R	C	A	D	E	E	M	I	T	
S	O	L	D	E	R	E	D	L	I	P
A	L	O	E	S	E	A	L	O	R	E
V	E	T	S	E	R	N	S	N	O	W

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER

49—Suffix denoting an agent
50—Call forth
51—Lair
52—Enactment
53—Extend application

1—Piece to give reciprocating motion
2—Solemn wonder
3—Empty talk
4—Wears away

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
2					13				14	
3					16			17		
4			18		19		20			
5	22				23		24			
6				26		27				
7				29				30	31	32
8			33					34		
9	36	37			38		39			
10					41		42			
11					44		45		46	47
12					49		50			
13					52		53			