

LITTLE OLD LADIES IN THE SOUTH

Radio Listeners In Dunedin Are Proud Of Their Two Centenarians

THEY'RE old, mighty old, in the south. With two centenarians in its midst, Dunedin may well feel proud.

Famous for her last year's broadcast to listeners from 4YA, Mrs. Emma Harries, of South Dunedin, sets a Dominion age record of more than 104 years. Coming up closely behind her, is Dunedin's Mrs. Louisa Reason. She reached 101 on Christmas Day.

When the "Record" went along to see how Mrs. Reason felt on adding the first year of her second century to her tally, it found she

of 100 she was quite confident she would last "quite a while yet."

Quite sprightly, during the year she visited 4ZB to see Peter, who had sung to her previously.

Until a few years ago, Mrs. Reason lived in a sod cottage near Kartigi, North Otago, on the Main South Road. She and her first husband landed at Moeraki, and set up in tents in a swampy and inhospitable country long before roads or railways were thought of.

She was for a long time a familiar figure, standing in the doorway of her sunbathed sod cottage. It was removed to straighten a dangerous motoring road.

She went to live in Dunedin with her son by her first marriage. Soon after her hundredth birthday she went to Company's Bay to the Health Camp.

WINNER ANNOUNCED

"Ideal Holiday" Competition

THE "Ideal Holiday" competition conducted by Columbia Pictures in conjunction with the "Record," has been concluded, and the winner is announced in to-day's "Record," on page 23. The prize of a fortnight's free holiday, together with several other awards, goes to Mr. A. S. Hely, of 40 Te Awe Awe Street, Palmerston North, who was judged to have written the best essay on the subject of his ideal holiday. The response to the competition was most gratifying, many hundreds of entries being received from all over New Zealand and even from Australia.

had taken up residence in the Company's Bay Health Camp, promoted through the activities of the Radio Church.

She is still an active old lady, with a clear mind. When the "Record" spoke to her at the age

Two Girls Who Sing Their Way Round

THOSE enterprising young duettists, Miss Viola Morris and Victoria Anderson, vocalists from England, are once more back in this country to tour under engagement to the NBS.

Ever since they were last here, about 18 months ago, they have been fulfilling broadcasting contracts—lucrative ones, too—in California, and in Australia for the ABC.

They are the only duettists in the world at present featuring the early English compositions. Before they left England to broadcast they did much research work in the British Museum studying and copying old English compositions and manuscripts to present to listeners. They now have a remarkable repertoire and their work is most artistic.

After their contract with the NBS ends they go to another in the Dutch East Indies. These girls go round the world.

He Falls From Trains, Says It's Fun

ONE of the most interesting men to be interviewed before the microphone at 1ZB, Gil Perkins, a stunt artist, who has dared death hundreds of times during the last 10 years he has been doubling for actors in Hollywood, entertained listeners for a quarter of an hour last week.

Questioned by Guy Nixon, he gave listeners a thrilling account of his risky calling. Wrecking motor cars, jumping over cliffs, falling from fast moving trains, being thrown from galloping horses and leaping from burning speedboats are every-day incidents in his life. Gil, who is a man of huge avoirdupois and broad shoulders, has frequently sustained serious injuries in the course of his work, yet he looks the picture of health.

He said he liked his work a lot. And the pay was good, a regular weekly salary being paid, with substantial additions for more perilous feats.

"Now and again stunt men are killed," he said, "but if a fellow watches his step he can live to be an old man. You gotta develop a technique for routine matters such as falling from a horse or turning a motor car over. This is all done as the result of experience. Whenever I have any falling or jumping to do, I always see that I am well padded on elbows and knees."

He has "doubled" for many famous film stars of whom he spoke interestingly. Regarding the controversy concerning the stars to be featured in the film production "Gone With the Wind," he said that it was almost certain that Paulette Goddard would be seen as "Scarlett O'Hara," and Clark Gable as "Rhett Butler."

Mr. Perkins was a passenger on the Monterey on his way to Melbourne to visit his parents. He was most amused about Auckland's traffic laws. "Gosh," said the stunt man, "the cop raises his hand and everybody walks across the road!"

WE English are very susceptible to righteous indignation, and too often its expression only engenders unrighteous indignation in others. —Professor G. M. Trevelyan.

IN history the inspiration of artists has been not women, but first food, then fear, then religion. —Mr. O. R. W. Nevinson.

The members of Dorothy's Happiness Club have installed a cot in the Auckland Public Hospital. Dorothy Wood herself paid a Christmas visit to the hospital, and here she is beside the cot with Miss E. M. Nutsey (Superintendent of Nurses), Dr. J. W. Craven (Medical Superintendent), Mr. Allan Moody (chairman of the Hospital Board) and little Valerie Pink.

Radio Pioneer Through On Monterey

ONE of Australia's real radio pioneers, Mr. Oswald Anderson, who has occupied an important position in London for the past three years, was a through passenger by the last trip of the Monterey bound from America to Sydney. He stepped ashore at Auckland and, in an interview at 1ZB, spoke interestingly on various radio topics.

For years he was station director of 2UW, Sydney. He was engaged

Too Many Loud Speakers At Shows

AT future Shows by the Canterbury Agricultural and Pastoral Association all loud-speakers, with the exception of the official ones, are to be banned. Decision was reached by the committee the other day when the managers of two firms exhibiting at the show suggested that regulations should be made to control loud speakers on trade stands. With the advent of loud-speakers, exhibitors have tended to shout each other down. Which is not so good for the nerves of the public.

in Australian radio when it was in its infancy—in the days when an ordinary telephone receiver in a wooden bowl was used as a microphone.

Mention of the great advantages of having a national and a commercial radio system, as was the case in Australia and New Zealand, was made by Mr. Anderson.

THE fundamental sin in this world is to know what is best for somebody else, and try to act on it. —Mr. Frank Tinsley.



Will Mahoney Is A Whole Show In Himself

Auckland Greet Overseas Revue Stars

THE man who made the King laugh—when he appeared before their Majesties at a command performance at the London Palladium—Will Mahoney, an artist with a big reputation in films and in international variety, is at present making Auckland laugh. This well-known comedian, fresh from triumphs on the Australian stage, opened at His Majesty's Theatre on Christmas Eve at the head of Frank Neil's big revue company.

Will Mahoney is one of the best and most refreshing comedians we have seen in this country. He is a whole show in himself by reason of his great talent, originality, drollness and the many ways in which he tickles the public fancy. All the time he is on the stage he keeps those in front convulsed and delighted. Everything he does is new—the way he sings and dances—and how he can dance! His versatility is amazing. He has a flow of ready wit and a wonderful talent for comic virtuosity. The highlights of his show are the selections he plays with his feet on a specially constructed xylophone, and his burlesque of Richard Tauber.

Will Mahoney is going to break records during his tour of New Zealand. The others in the variety show, which is labelled "Why Be Serious?" are all stars. Remember Violet Carlson, the comedienne who toured a few months ago in "Salalaika"? She is in the revue and scores heavily with her wisecracks, her drolleries and grotesque dancing.

A good all-round artist is Evie Hayes, who in private life is Mrs. Will Mahoney. Not only can she sing popular songs well, but she makes a fine foil for her husband in several scenes.

Mr. and Mrs. Mahoney are on their honeymoon. They arrived from Sydney on the Avatea complete with a huge red caravan, guns, fishing tackle, a hunting dog and boxes of movie picture camera equipment. Both ardent sports, fond of fishing, shooting and the outdoor life, the happy couple intend to spend every moment of their leisure in sport. Almost immediately after they arrived in Auckland they motored to Rotorua for a couple of days' sight-seeing.

In conversation with the "Record's" correspondent, Mr. Mahoney said he was amazed at what he saw in the thermal district. He was most interested in the trout at Fairy Springs. "I could scarcely believe my eyes when I looked

down on those trout in the crystal clear water," he said, "and in case my friends don't believe me when I get back home, I shot a few hundred feet of film just to prove things."

Mr. Mahoney carries with him quite a miniature arsenal. He has guns by the dozen and greatly treasures one which he bought in London three years ago for £180. This is an outstanding example of the gun-maker's art. His wife is a crack shot, and while in Melbourne recently she won two trophies at the Nobel Clay Gun Club in open competition.

As well as doing much shooting and fishing during his New Zealand tour, Will Mahoney is going to film as much of New Zealand as he can in colour, for movie photography is also another of his hobbies. At the conclusion of his New Zealand tour, he told the "Record," he is going to spend his three months' vacation making a comedy for Cinesound Films in Sydney. After that he returns to America, where he has many bookings to fulfil.

Mouth-Organs Are Played The World Over

(“Record’s” Christchurch Reporter.)

WE thought we were smart in Canterbury when we discovered that mouth-organ bands flourished everywhere. We had a surprise when, for the opening of the Banks Peninsula Cruising Club, a mouth-organ band played the National Anthem while the flag was going top-mast. But we certainly got a shock when we heard the boys exhaling and inhaling the reeds in jazz time while presenting the national hymn. But this is nothing.

Britain spent nearly £250,000 during 1938 on mouth-organs. Nearly 3,000,000 “harmonicas,” from little one-octave affairs an inch long to big bass instruments over a foot in length, have been sold during the last 12 months.

In Germany the mouth-organ boom started 10 years ago. Britain took it up a little later and, as usual, New Zealand came to light, quite a few years afterwards.

The most expensive harmonica, we are told, was produced for the President of Cuba. It had plates of solid gold and cost over £100 to make.