

# N.Z. RADIO RECORD

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## RADIO OPENS ANOTHER MAGIC DOOR TOWARDS WONDERS OF THE FUTURE

### First New Zealander Ever To Be Televised Tells Of This Modern Miracle At BBC's Alexandra Palace

• First New Zealander ever to be televised, Kevin Staunton, one of this country's ablest younger journalists, who has just returned from a visit to England, in this article tells of the vast strides of the new radio art.

• Another record set by him on his visit was that of being the youngest person in the world (and also the first New Zealander) ever to stage any promotion in London's huge Royal Albert Hall—a catch-as-catch-can wrestling match between well-known wrestler Earl McCready and Ruben Wright.

• After a year in London, in which he did work for some of the national dailies on Fleet Street and for the BBC, he declined a permanent post in London journalism, returned to New Zealand, believing that experience abroad should be applied in one's own country.

**W**HO said there is nothing new under the sun? Thirteen thousand miles across sea-water in a leisurely country called England flourishes a new art, a new science, a new entertainment. . . . And they call it TELEVISION!

Sit by your home fireside—if you live anywhere within seventy-five miles of London—press a button, twirl a dial and watch the events of the world, in sight and sound, unfold themselves on a little 10-inch by eight-inch screen right before your eyes. That's the modern miracle.

From stage coaches to motor-cars, from balloons to aeroplanes! Those were mere steps. But television came from nothing. It is the something new under the sun the wiseacres said couldn't exist!

TEN years ago radio was in its infancy. It was a youngster no more lusty than is television, with whom its fortunes are linked inseparably. Ten years!

And the number of television viewers in London and the Home Counties has doubled, trebled, in the past six months. Ten years!

And plans are laid so that television gradually (and not so gradually at that!) will be available to viewers all over Great Britain. Ten years!

And even today the London market for radios is on the decline because people hold to old sets awaiting the inevitable broadening of television's now restricted programmes before buying their part of the newest

memories a-flooding back. Ten years!

#### Its Birth Notice

IN August, 1936, the British Broadcasting Corporation's London Television Station at Alexandra Palace transmitted its first test programmes; the birth notice of the most notable baby in the world of public entertainment had been published, 1937! And the London Television Standards (which mean little to you or me, but lots to those concerned with

modern broadcasting), crept unnoticed into that timeless centre of affairs—London. . . . His departure more than a year later was almost equally unnoticed.

But in that year he had contrived to make at least one faint, only microscopically discernible scratch on the broad page of history. . . . He had become the first New Zealander ever to be televised. . . . And the process was repeated on more than a dozen occasions.

#### BBC Features

IT happened that, additionally, he was responsible for an effort to interest the British public in a sport widely popular in New Zealand—catch-as-catch-can wrestling. And in association with him was that great gentleman and great wrestler, Earl McCready.

It happened, too, that catch-as-catch-can wrestling makes interesting material for television programmes, so that Earl McCready was invited by the BBC to feature in a series of exhibition bouts. And your young New Zealand journalist went along to offer such technical advice as he was able and to referee the encounters. Once a fortnight for a period of more than six months, until a prior commitment called McCready to South Africa and inclination your New Zealander to his home, these television demonstrations of twenty minutes each were held.

His Highness the Aga Khan, Prunella Stack, Ely Culbertson, Sybil Thorndike, Stephen King-Hall, Gracie Fields, Lord Wakefield and Jack Doyle—these were some of the personalities with whom I shared the honour of the Emitron camera "eyes" and the boom microphone. Whether they were as flattered as I is moot point indeed!

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**TELEVISION'S EYE APPEAL.**—Fair Jasmine Bligh and dark Elizabeth Cowell are BBC's picked announcers for television. Jasmine Bligh took an appreciative interest in the televised wrestling demonstrations of Earl McCready, but Elizabeth Cowell would make her announcement of the demonstration, turn her back on the wrestling mat and push a finger firmly against each ear.

and potentially the greatest medium of home entertainment.

Ten years! . . . In ten years maybe television will have reached out to this little piece on the edge of the world.

And then, perhaps, a still-young New Zealander may be excused for remembering that he was the first of his countrymen ever to be televised. That will bring the

technicalities of the modern miracle) had been set; television had proved convincingly that its potentialities were vast—so vast that still they are only partially comprehended.

It was in the same year that a young New Zealand journalist, ambitious to learn something more than the little he already knew about the two greatest organs of publicity (the modern newspaper and

## Hot Shots

WE have no wish to be personal, but we would like to know how many times you have written 1938 instead of 1939?

MANY a man today is living by the sweat of his frau.

THEN there was the father of six who bought a dachshund so all the children could pet him at once.

GOSSIPS have a keen sense of rumour.

A MAN always chases a woman until she catches him.

EPITAPH for the tombstone of a good host: "This Is On Me."

NOTE ON A PEACEFUL REED. QUITE good hay is being harvested on the majority of North Auckland farms this year.

BIGGEST problem facing most New Zealanders at the moment is to know what hour of what day summer will fall this year.



THEY'VE discovered a new insect called golf moth. It does 18 holes a day.

THE trial has commenced of three men who are alleged to have plotted Hitler's assassination. "Trial" is good.

THEN there was the man who gave up drinking for the sake of the wife and kidneys.

THE great secret of successful marriage is to treat all disasters as incidents and none of the incidents as disasters.

THEN there was the Scotsman who used only one spur. He figured the other side would go anyway.

SOME men have a den in their home, others just growl all over the house.

"AVON'S WILD GAME" is heading to a paragraph in Christchurch newspaper. Like snakes and ladders, it gambols a bit.

THE year 1939 opened with the cable pages of the papers almost at normal. It was pleasant to see a certain amount of prominence once again given to overseas cricket matches and wholesale slaughter in Spain.