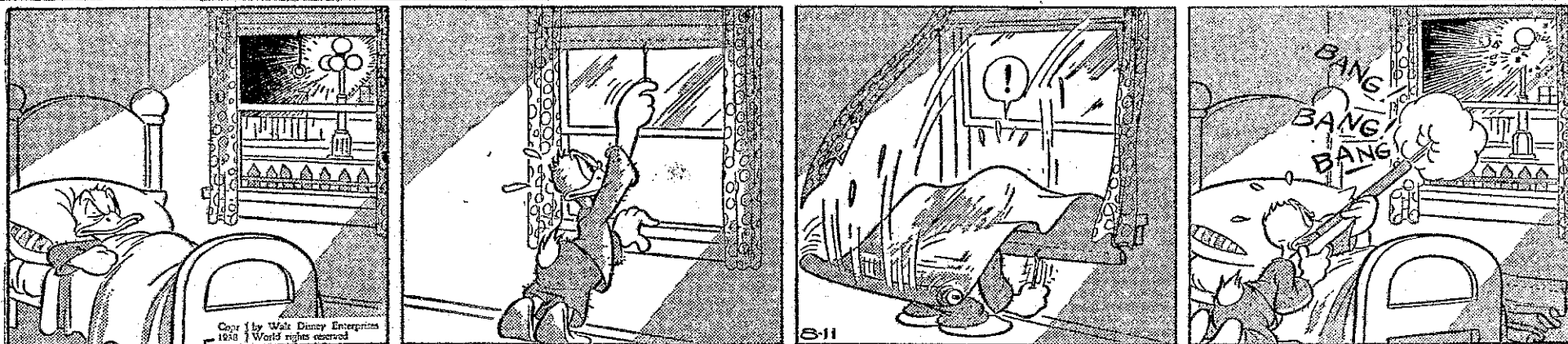


DONALD DUCK

by Walt Disney



FINE STUDIOS OF 3ZB RISE FROM ASHES

Inclined Walls, Spotlights, And Air-Conditioning Are Novel Devices

WITH its sun-coloured interior walls inclined one foot in ten, concealed lights in the studio ceiling for spotlighting artists, and air that is washed and conditioned to make it fresh on the sultriest days, new studios of NCBS station 3ZB Christchurch were claimed at their reopening ceremony as the latest in design in the world.

Radio baby among New Zealand's broadcasting stations, 3ZB suffered a temporary setback last May, through a serious studio fire, but recovery was rapid and today it is the picture of health.

The public invariably asks why the walls are inclined one foot in ten. This has come about after wide research. All the old ideas of blanketing a studio have gone by the board. They make the sounds too dead, straight walls producing a "flutter" in the sound.

The new tiles are either reflecting or sound-absorbent, giving what, scientifically, is known as a long mean path reflection. Result is that the microphone, with its one ear, can behave as a human being with two.

All reverberation is eliminated. In this respect, say experts, 3ZB is unique in the world, since it combines these two unusual features.

In the "acoustic ceiling" are three concealed lights which "spotlight" the artists. Fitted with dimmers, the lighting system generally is the same as that used for stage presentations.

Star feature in the main studio furnishing is the speaker's desk, of limed polished oak, and fitted with a directional microphone. The announcer sits or stands there with his copy, lit by side panels, yet invisible to spectators.

This has come about largely through investigations overseas of Mr. Beau Shell, whose research work has been called upon for many of the station's new pieces of equipment.

Throughout the building interior walls are "sun-coloured"—a tint regarded as the most efficient for working purposes. In excellent taste, green curtains with white bars strike a neat contrast.

The air is washed and conditioned, giving an even temperature and a remarkable freshness even on the sultriest days.

As to the main working studio, broadcasting artist Reg Morgan, whose broadcasting experience is wide, stated the other day that 3ZB was capable of giving perfect reproduction.

Declared Morgan: "It is the only studio I have been in where I feel perfectly natural, and unconscious that I am actually performing in a broadcasting house."

General furnishings are in Continental style—not garish, but tasteful and striking. Chairs are of tomato colour, harmonising perfectly with the general colour scheme.

The whole station has been designed and decorated according to the dictates of modern science.

When the station was first opened, many Christchurch citizens packed the building and formed such a dense crowd that the officials were hampered. This time, however, the public invitations were limited. Result was that the function was excellently carried out—in comfort for everyone concerned.

Controller C. G. Scrimgeour of the NCBS came to Christchurch for the opening, and, when Station Director Stewart Duff had announced the change-over from the temporary premises, Mr. Scrimgeour briefly welcomed all visitors. He introduced the Minister of Industries and Commerce, the Hon. D. G. Sullivan, who performed the reopening ceremony.

The Minister apologised for the absence of the Prime Minister.

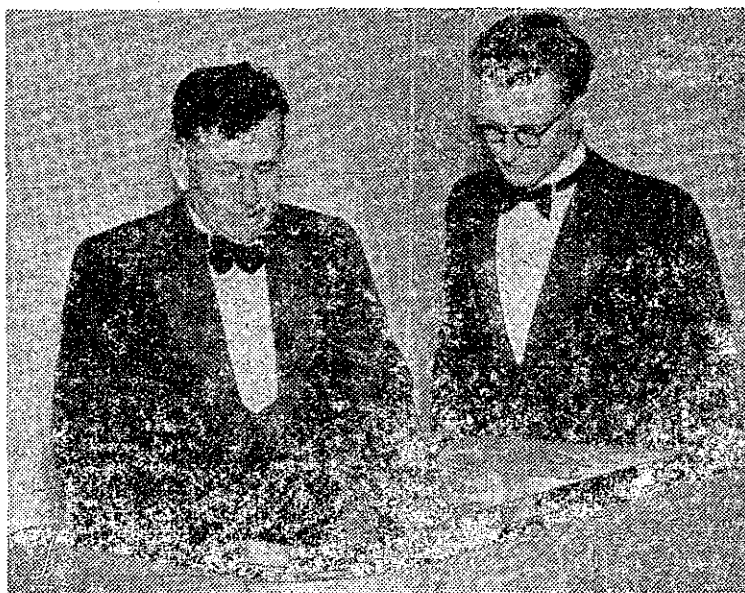
Often, said Minister Sullivan, it had been said that the North Island was the favoured child. That assertion could not be justified when it came to the studios of the Commercial Broadcasting Service. They were a very fine example of New Zealand enterprise and initiative.

When the big fire occurred in May last, Mr. Merton Bullivant and his staff set a record in broadcasting circles. Although the whole place was gutted, the station was on the air again at 6 a.m., using borrowed records. Not a feature was missed.

Next day, when the Controller arrived, the whole staff was busily engaged, and a sign-writer was putting up a sign on the temporary premises. Thus Christchurch set a magnificent record.

The Minister paid tributes to the architect and the contractor, and to Mr. Beau Shell, advertising manager of the service, on his contribution toward the design and layout.

"To me, as Minister of Industries and Commerce, it is a still further source of gratification to be told that the greater portion of the materials used has been produced in New Zealand. This, at a time when the Government is



AT THE LAUNCHING OF 3ZB.—Minister of Industries and Commerce, Mr. D. G. Sullivan, and NCBS Controller C. G. Scrimgeour at the official opening of the new 3ZB studios in Christchurch.

Russian Ballet, And Drama Of Radio Some Famous Personalities Involved In Real Life Drama

VISIT of the Russian Ballet to

New Zealand heightens interest in a topical talk from 2YA at 3 p.m. on February 5 by "Lydia," a lady who once lived in Russia and attended every season of the famous old Imperial Ballet for years. She saw dances given that have never been seen outside the country. The talk is called "Art of the Russian Ballet: From the Imperial Theatre to New Zealand."

Practised speaker Sir Thomas Wilford is set down for a series of talks from 2YA, beginning on February 7 with a talk on the late Irish-Maori orator Sir James Carroll in the "Famous Men I Knew" series.

Later talks deal with personalities Sir Thomas met when abroad. Sir Thomas is a fine broadcaster, with a lively sense of humour and a keen instinct for the dramatic.

doing its utmost to expand our secondary industries and to increase production, is very heartening. There is ample proof that our artisans and tradesmen are equal to any task."

The Controller had built up a great staff, added the Minister, and the service was giving very satisfactory results to the public. Even America had expressed appreciation. In 3ZB, particularly, there were 60 New Zealanders engaged—most of them Christchurch citizens. "I congratulate 'Scrim' on his staff generally. I trust that the future will be full of prosperity."

A DRAMA on the air may become one of the deciding factors in a drama of real life—when a certain case shortly comes before the Supreme Court in Auckland at the next sessions.

During the hearing of a case in which a man was last week charged with demanding from a woman £2 by menaces, and assault with intent to rob, a member of 1ZB's staff, a transcription officer, was called into the witness box in the Police Court. He testified that the morning serial, "The House of Peter MacGregor," was broadcast from Station 1ZB every week morning at 10.30.

The lady complainant said she was positive of the time of the alleged assault because earlier that morning she had checked her clock with 1ZB, when that station gave the time. Further, she said she always listened to the serial, "The House of Peter MacGregor," which started at 10.30 every morning.

When the accused called on December 20, she looked at the clock which said 10.25. She was about to enter the front room to switch on to 1ZB when she answered the knock at the door.

Aware that the defence would set up an alibi when the case reached the Supreme Court, the police called the officer from 1ZB to prove that this serial started at 10.30. Accused, in an interview with detectives prior to his arrest on the evening of December 20, said he was in Queen Street that morning until 11 o'clock.

Station 3ZB Turns Over Its New Look

Visitors and staff, all suitably stiff-shirted and evening-gowned, looked well against the decorations of the new 3ZB studios on reopening night.

Several of the visitors had not been in a broadcasting house be-

SO THEY SAY

Heroine For "Gone With The Wind"

HOLLYWOOD'S protracted bout of Scarlett O'Hara Fever is again reported to have come to an end, this time with the signing of Vivien Leigh to play the heroine in "Gone With The Wind."

Current rumour is well substantiated. Miss Leigh is an English girl—a Korda "discovery"—who has appeared in "Fire Over England," "Storm in a Teacup," "Dark Journey" and (yet to come), "St. Martin's Lane." Producer David Selznick forestalls criticism of his choice of an English girl for the Scarlett O'Hara role by pointing out that the Southern aristocracy of Civil War days was proud of its British ancestry. In bustle and straw bonnet, Miss Leigh is the exact counterpart of the imaginary Scarlett, says Selznick.

Deadline for starting "Gone With The Wind" is now February; but most people have got so they won't believe the picture till they actually see it.

fore, crowded round the windows of the main studio all evening to hear and watch "Radio Pie," produced by Reg. Morgan, of 3ZB. Compere was Barend Harris, of head office staff, and musical director was Jack Maybury, of Christchurch.

New Zealand artists, all well-known to Christchurch audiences, were featured in a potpourri of lively entertainment. Directed by Te Ari Pitama, a Maori party helped the musical side of the programme, and the 3ZB Novelty Orchestra had a warm welcome back to the air again.

Whether it was by good luck or good management, traditional costumes of the Maori party blended in colour with the studio furnishings and made up a cameo worthy of any stage presentation.