

# FIRST SINGER EVER TELEVISED

It Is A U.S. Title That Edith Griffith Holds, But It Is Probably A World Title, Too

By J. GIFFORD MALE

• Edith Griffith, dark-haired radio and stage singer who passed through Auckland recently on her way to engagements in Australia, was the first singer in the U.S. to be televised, probably the first in the world.

• It was at Schenectady, New York, and the year was 1931—the dark ages as far as television is concerned. In discussing her career, Miss Griffith is apt to forget this experience entirely, or else pass over it as something trivial and not worth remembering.

• But, who knows, when television is a commercial proposition, as it promises to become soon, the title of first American girl ever to be televised may be a valuable one.

EDITH GRIFFITH was making personal appearances at an RKO theatre in Schen-

ectady just at the time the General Electric Company was conducting a series of television experiments.

More for a stunt than anything else, the company decided to make a practical test in a

theatre, and suggested to Miss Griffith—who, as her picture on the front page suggests, is, to say the least, photogenic—that she should be the subject for the experiment.

It was an elaborate experi-

ment. Miss Griffith herself was taken to a transmitter two miles away from the theatre, placed in a small box lighted up with high-power lamps which nearly fried her to a crisp, and then bidden to sing.

Her accompanist was back in the theatre, and the accompaniment was relayed to the transmitter by landline, and to Miss Griffith by earphone.

The televised image was flashed back to the theatre, and shown on a large screen, to the great edification of the audience. It was a shaky, uncertain image, but quite recognisable.

Television has made great strides since then, of course. In the United States even sporting events are televised.

The first sporting event to be televised, in fact, was a baseball game last May between Princeton and Columbia, and the 3000-odd owners of television sets in New York were stick-

able to follow the progress of the game with ease.

BUT however elated the General Electric people may have been about their telecast, to Edith Griffith the experiment was just another colourful incident in a career which has brought her into contact with most of America's leading radio artists.

She started off in the hard school of picture-house singing, doing five shows a day, no less. From picture-houses, she went to J. J. Shubert's productions, then into radio and vaudeville, and she's been there ever since.

In addition, she has appeared at some of the country's swellest night-clubs. In Chicago she was at the Chez Paris, the Yacht Club, the Congress Casino, and the College Inn at the top of the Hotel Sherman, which is famed as the home of Ben Bernie.

In radio she has worked on big spots and little spots, and has first-hand knowledge of the uncertainty and heartbreak of radio work.

Don't think that underpaid radio artists are to be found only in New Zealand, she says. There are plenty in the United States, too. Once it was a sheer scandal, though now the Radio Guild has cleaned things up a bit.

By the way, Edith Griffith was within an ace of becoming known as the Milk of Magnesia Girl. She sang with Aba Lyman's Orchestra on a milk of magnesia programme, just not the 3000-odd owners of television sets in New York were stick-

## Two Christchurch Societies Give Musical Programme

Features Debut Of Mae Robertson

IT was remarked recently by a Christchurch musician that musical societies had a great obligation imposed upon them in keeping good music alive. A day or two after his statement, the public had the opportunity of hearing the Christchurch Harmonic Society and the Dulcet Junior Choir on one programme.

The Harmonic Society's work is well known all over New Zealand and the good standard that it sets ranks it high, but the performance of the juniors, specialising in Mozart, was remarkably fine, when it is remembered that the choir has been going for only 18 months.

Choruses and piano work—the best of Robin Milford's suite—presented a fine opening, but the triumph of the evening was Vaughan Williams's "Magnificat", in which a new soloist, Mae Robertson, contralto, made her debut. The choir also presented "The Shepherdess", by Dr. V. E. Galway, of Dunedin.

A. G. Thompson is the conductor of the junior choir and his far-sightedness musically was well demonstrated. The children are between the ages of nine and 13, and the rigorous training they are undergoing will provide a valuable musical feeder for adult societies of the future.

Professor John Hilton: In the interests of world peace I want a Five-Power pact recognising the soothing influence of carpet slippers.

## Justice Took A Beating

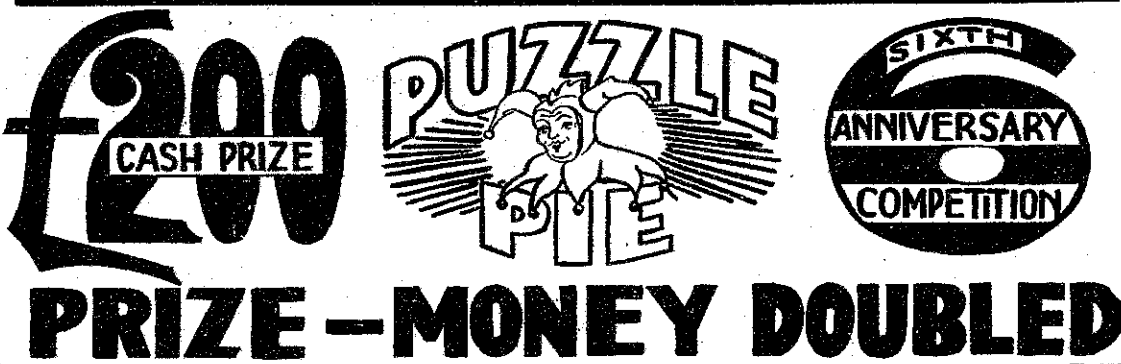
(Continued from page 7.)

they did to local news. There were bombings in Prague, Moscow, Berlin. Uprisings and demonstrations took place before United States consulates in Geneva, East Indies and South America. And from San Francisco to the Bronx there were meetings, and more than one bomb explosion.

The State of Massachusetts at the same time was enveloped with a miasma of hate, fear and suspicion. Boston itself, described as "a witch-hunter's paradise," was seized with a mass hysteria. Among those arrested in Boston for publicly demonstrating were Edna St. Vincent Millay, John Dos Passos, and "Mother" Ella Reeve Bloor.

The tragedy of the Sacco-Vanzetti case is the tragedy of three men—Judge Thayer, Governor Fuller, and President Lowell, and their inability to rise above the obscene battle that raged for seven years around the heads of the shoe-maker and the fish-peddler.

## HARD CASH IS HARD TO BEAT



## Two Hundred Pounds In Cash For Solving This Simple Little Puzzle About —COMMUNITY SINGING—

Don't miss this splendid competition! It is just a short and easily-worded paragraph about COMMUNITY SINGING, which appeared in a New Zealand newspaper some time ago, and has now been put into puzzle form by our artist. The opening words, "PERHAPS YOU DON'T CARE..." will tell you what it is all about, and the rest of the wording is simple, and the sense of the sentence will help you. Each picture or sign may mean part of a word, one, two or three words, but not more than three. Solve carefully and write your solution IN INK on one side of a sheet of paper. Sign your name and residential address, and post entry to:—

PUZZLE PIE, No. 312R,  
BOX 950, G.P.O., CHRISTCHURCH.  
READ THESE RULES CAREFULLY.

All entries must be postmarked not later than Wednesday, September 6.

The Prize of £200 in Cash will be awarded to the competitor whose solution of the paragraph is correct or most nearly correct. In case of ties the prize-money will be divided, but the full amount will be paid.

The sum of £200 is deposited with "Truth" (N.Z.), Ltd. The decision of the Editor of "Puzzle Pie" will be final and legally binding throughout. A postal note for 1/- must accompany each initial entry and 6d. each additional entry. Penny stamps (1/1) accepted if postal note unobtainable. Any number of attempts may be sent on plain paper. Alternatives in single entries will be disqualified. Results will be published on Monday, September 25.

RESULT "PUZZLE PIE" No. 309.  
The winning competitor in this contest is:—  
MR. H. EVANS,  
Parkville House,  
17 Ridgway Street,  
Wanganui.

His solution was the only all-correct one received, and the PRIZE OF £100 IN CASH is therefore awarded to him.

Prize-money will be posted on Monday, September 11.

SOLUTION TO "PUZZLE PIE" No. 309.

Paragraph from the "N.Z. Sporting and Dramatic Review," November 14, 1935.

"The Kookaburra is the greatest enemy of snakes in Australia. It will fly aloft with a large snake, drop it to the ground, repeating the process till the reptile is dead, and then eat it."

There's Money in "PUZZLE PIE" for YOU!