

Radioland Bids Farewell to "Aunt Gwen"

Touching Scenes at 2YA



THE studio at 2YA on the evening of January, 20 was the scene of a happy little gathering of radio uncles, aunts, and cousins. They were assembled there to say farewell, or, we hope, "au revoir," to Aunt Gwen. Everyone was a little sad that Aunt Gwen's cheery voice would be heard no more giving birthday greetings and making the Children's Hour something to be eagerly awaited.

However, on the 29th of this month Aunt Gwen is to be married, and on that day everyone will have the pleasure of hearing her voice once more before she sails across the Tasman Sea to a new home; but here is good news—Aunt Gwen says that when she comes to New Zealand she will visit Radioland and again you will hear her cheery opening words, "Hullo, children," that have brought joy and gladness to all the children of Radioland, and those who lay in pain in their own homes or in hospital.

One by one before the microphone the Uncles wished her joy, happiness and prosperity. There was Uncle George, who is known so well; Uncle Toby, Uncle Jasper, with Dog Spot; Cousin Dick, with his bagpipes; and Cousin George. They said many complimentary remarks about Aunt Gwen, and every one was true. Mr. Ball, on

RECENTLY Aunt Gwen, whose wonderful personality and sweetness has made for her a treasured place in the hearts of thousands of children of all ages and conditions, resigned her position at 2YA, and is now about to be married. She has rendered much valuable service in brightening many little lives, especially those of kiddies whose whole existence is passed within the enclosing walls of sanatoriums and hospitals. But her sphere of usefulness has not been restricted to those of tender years; indeed many adults of Radioland find much solace and cheer in Aunt Gwen's happy words and brightening laughter which have reached out from the studio to comfort and relieve those whose lives are far from happy. Let us all join in wishing her true happiness in her married life, and a safe return to the sincere welcome which will be awaiting her on her return to New Zealand.

husband. Wait a minute; there are more presents. If you look in the eyes and hearts of every Radio Cousin who has had the pleasure of listening-in to your voice at 2YA, you will find heaps of smiles and love to make your future happiness assured. Cheerio, and the best of good wishes, from Uncle Jim."

During the evening Aunt Gwen received a big surprise, for she found on the studio table a parcel addressed to Aunt Molly, who is taking Aunt Gwen's place.

Aunt Gwen's Radio Wedding

LISTENERS-IN throughout New Zealand will attend their first radio wedding on Wednesday, January 20, when they will constitute a vast

greatest God-speed that a New Zealand bride could be given.

The whole proceedings, in the church and at the wedding breakfast in the home of Mr. Shepherd, will be put on the air. The occasion will also be taken to broadcast a description of the dresses, the many presents, etc.

The marriage ceremony is to take place in St. Paul's Pro-Cathedral at 3 o'clock. The whole of the proceedings at the service will take place before the microphone. From the church an adjournment will be made to the home of the bride's parents, where the wedding breakfast is to take place. The broadcast from here will commence at 3.30. Three musical items will be given.

At 4.10 the speeches will commence. Following the introductory remarks by the officiating clergyman, Captain Munro will propose the toast of the bride and bridegroom, to which Mr. Stennett will reply. "The Bridesmaids" will be proposed by Mr. Guy Munro, Mr. Syd. Allwright replying. Mr. H. A. Huggins and Major Eric Reeves will propose the toast of "The Parents," Mr. H. Shepherd replying. An address by Mr. J. Davies, station manager at 2YA, will follow. A further toast will be that of the Broadcasting Company, to be proposed by Mr. Claude Moss and

Au Revoir

We have met to-night to say farewell
To one we've learnt to love so well;
Dear Auntie Gwen is going away
Across the Tasman Sea to stay.

We'll miss her smile and friendly tone,
When first we face the microphone;
Our hearts all going pit-a-pat,
Our nerves all going rat-tat-tat.

When she spoke with kindly cheer,
We seem to lose all sense of fear,
Dear Auntie Gwen inspired us all,
Both big and little, short or tall.

So Auntie Gwen, where'er you roam
Still think of 2YA as Home.

behalf of the Broadcasting Company, thanked her for all she had done to make the children's hour bright and happy. Then a little cousin stepped forward and recited "Au Revoir," a pretty little poem specially written in Aunt Gwen's honour by Mr. G. S. Pringle, of Karori.

After this Cousin Betty, making an old-fashioned curtsy, presented Aunt Gwen with a pretty bouquet, and thanked her again for all the children of Radioland. Several other cousins whom everybody knows so well sang, played, and recited to make the party a merry one. Big Brother Jack, Uncle Jim, and Uncle Geoff were not able to be present, but Uncle Jim sent a cheery message.

"Hullo, Aunt Gwen! And you're going to a wedding party on the 29th? Many happy returns of the day! (We hope not.—Ed.). Would you like a fairy present? If you look carefully in the church you'll find a handsome



her. It was a farewell present from the Radio Fairies. She was delighted to receive many other presents from her little friends of the radio circle. Aunt Gwen thanked each one over the air, and at last spoke a few words in touching farewell to Radioland.

Though it is very hard for us to say good-bye to Aunt Gwen, yet it is harder still for her to leave the huge family she loved so well. Still, you must follow the advice of another radio uncle. This is what he says:

So children, when
You miss Aunt Gwen,
Who always was so jolly,
Don't fret and pout,
Just sing or shout
Three cheers! we have Aunt Molly;
And a very big welcome goes out
from all the children of Radioland to

and invisible audience at the marriage ceremony in which Miss Gwen Shepherd (Aunt Gwen of 2YA) and Mr. Bruce O. Stennett, of Sydney, will be the principals.

It is distinctly appropriate that the wedding of one like Aunt Gwen, who has been so closely associated with radio broadcasting for the past two years should be celebrated before the microphone. It will be a unique and memorable occasion in the history of broadcasting in New Zealand. As 3YA will carry out a rebroadcast many thousands of people throughout New Zealand will be radio guests of honour on the occasion of the first radio wedding celebrated in New Zealand, and thus accord a striking tribute to a very popular broadcaster. It will be the

A Farewell to Dear Aunt Gwen

The farewell words are spoken.
We've said our fond good-byes,
Our hearts are sad within us,
The teardrops dim our eyes.

We do not like this parting,
We are loth to let you go,
But we can only strive to smile
And be content that it is so.

How often we have listened,
As you sang of friendship's aims,
And thought that few so truly and well
Have ever fulfilled its claims.

So we shall miss you sadly,
With your daily talks in life,
Your loving voice that ever soothed
Dark hours of sorrow and of strife.

THE above poem to Aunt Gwen was composed by MRS. EDITH CLAPP, of Paekakariki.

responded to by Mr. John Ball, Editor-Announcer. During the happy proceedings several songs will be sung, and as a finale "Aunt Gwen" will say "Good Bye" to all her many friends, young and old, who will be listening-in, prior to her departure for Sydney, where she is to reside in future.

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