

# Third Annual Radio Picnic at 4YA



HE third annual 4YA radio picnic was held on Saturday, March 21, and was a complete success, if the numbers may be taken as evidence. The story of the 4YA picnics is one of increasing popularity.

The first picnic in 1929 established itself among Dunedin's biggest events by an attendance of 1500; the second in 1930 taxed to breaking point the city's largest motor transport organisation and became the biggest annual picnic by an attendance of nearly 3000; the 1931 picnic just held eclipsed all previous records by an attendance of nearly 4000. This year the Government Railway Department was called upon to carry the enthusiastic crowds to Evansdale, a beautiful spot about 16 miles from Dunedin, and did so in four special trains.

Dunedin weather is noted for being capricious, and it confirmed its reputation. Friday was as delightful a late summer day as could be enjoyed anywhere, but Saturday was overcast, with drops of warm rain threatening to spoil all arrangements. The streets were wet when the first crowded special pulled out of the Dunedin station. The skies were still overcast at Evansdale, but fortunately no rain fell.

There is no sight on earth quite as attractive as a great crowd of children in many coloured holiday attire, setting out enthusiastically to enjoy a picnic. When the thousands were scampering about the picnic field it looked as though the sober green grass had grown a garden of many coloured flowers overnight. Nor were they all in the picnic paddock. Evansdale is noted for its charmingly beautiful Glen, a natural rift in the hills stretching into the back country and covered with thick native bush. The Glen abounds in the mysterious nooks and adventurous places dear to the heart of a boy, and hundreds of boys became full-fledged explorers, for one day at least. A little stream runs through the Glen, not anywhere deep enough to cause the smallest flutter of anxiety, but rich in the small fat tiddler trout that constitute a living temptation to a boy with a line and a bent pin. Scores of boys fished all day and caught nothing, which, as every fisherman knows, does nothing to mar the thrills of anticipation. Evansdale also boasts a beach of sorts. The breakers roar a mile away from the place where the last tired ripple comes to rest, and half of that mile is only knee deep at full tide. There were some bold youngsters who donned bathing suits with eager delight, and succeeded in getting wet only to the shins, but most were content to paddle.

While many were entertaining themselves in this fashion, hundreds of others were enjoying the sports and games on the field. Uncle Pete, Uncle Jack and Uncle Alec were the sports committee, and did their work without either a hitch or a complaint. There was a little excitement when Big Brother Bill entered one race with fifty yards' start in the hundred. Although he won the race with about a yard to spare there didn't seem to be any prize. In another part of

## Bigger and Better

the field a great crowd was watching the pillow fight in progress. Hefty youths wielding sugar bags stuffed with hay were battering each other, sitting astride a pole. It was a Homeric contest, but no blood was spilt, and nobody's feelings were hurt. In yet another place youngsters were trying to climb the greasy pole. It wasn't very high, but too high for those that tried to reach the ham on the top.

Mr. Pritchard, the ventriloquist, captivated everybody with his wee doll that seemed to know so much and speak so well. Thousands of bairns laughed their delight at its quaint antics, and at least one small mite wept when Mr. Pritchard put his doll back in the box.

Aunt Leonore and Aunt Sheila played games with the tiny tots in another part of the field; while Aunt Dot and Aunt Anita could not be found anywhere. They were in a secret

place doing mysterious things with endless small bags and tins of lollies. When the time came to disclose themselves and the good work they had been doing, there were no more popular radio aunts or uncles on the picnic ground.

Lollie distribution was like the beginning of a rather sticky war. Thousands of children mobbed the aunts and uncles. Big Brother Bill tried to relieve the pressure by grabbing a tin of lollies and running up the picnic ground scattering sweets as he ran. It was soon unequivocally proved that Big Brother Bill was simply nowhere as a harrier. The aunts and uncles who stayed in the hall and threw the lollies through the window were much wiser and more comfortable. The air was full of small bags of lollies bursting like bombs wherever they came down.

The treasure hunt, a feature of 4YA's picnics in past years, was chang-

ed into a hunt for the mysterious man with the treasure to give to the fortunate child who discovered him. When this began every man on the picnic ground was besieged by eagerly questioning children. The policeman even did not escape, although, when the pressure was the hottest, he did his very best. It was quite a novel change to see a perspiring policeman trying to evade hundreds of children, although his trying to escape by running really made the matter very much worse. The treasure was found at last in the pocket of an exhausted newspaper reporter.

Between three and four hundred children were the guests of the Broadcasting Company, being in this fortunate position because they had helped Brother Bill in his sessions during the year. Tables were spread in the orchard for them, and they partook liberally of food provided at lunch and tea. A group of Girl Guides did splendid service in assisting the uncles and aunts in serving tables. Wendy, who is a Guide captain, did excellently well in charge of these.

Although every necessary precaution was taken in the presence of Red Cross Nurses and St. John Ambulance men, once again it has to be recorded that their valuable aid was not needed. There were no casualties of even the minor type during the whole happy day. Although the precaution was taken to invite the Otago Motor Club's motor patrol to be on hand in case any of the scores of motor-cars needed doctoring, there was no casualty here either.

The special trains left Evansdale at dusk, carrying thousands of tired but happy children home again. The newspapers recorded what seems to be the unanimous opinion that the 1931 radio picnic was the biggest and best yet.



## EASTER

Appropriate broadcasts from all  
Y A Stations

Good Friday

CHURCH SERVICES

With specially-arranged  
Concerts to follow 1, 3, and  
4YA on Morning Broad-  
casts.

Easter Saturday

SPORTING BROAD-  
CASTS.

1 and 3YA on Morning  
Broadcasts.

Easter Sunday

MORNING SERVICE  
from 1YA.

Easter Monday

SPORTING BROAD-  
CASTS.  
ATTRACTIVE  
PROGRAMMES.  
No Silent Day for 1YA.

## Radio Abroad

ONE of the first radio-museums, in which will be displayed inventions pertinent to radio progress from the earliest crystal sets to television apparatus, is being installed in a huge broadcasting centre in Berlin, Germany. Beside the museum, there will be studios and laboratories for radio research. The building anticipates the proposed "Radio City" to be constructed in New York City.

THE following advertisement from a Californian daily newspaper needs no explanation:—

"There is one bootlegger in Susanville who is known to this committee and who has a whisky ageing machine. This machine is a nuisance to radio enthusiasts of Susanville, and unless this bootlegger, who is known, removes his machine from Susanville, warrants will be sworn to for his arrest for violation of the prohibition law and for violation of the city ordinance covering radio disturbance.

"Signed.

COMMITTEE"