



A sample of the talent to be seen on New Zealand's Tv. shows — Peter Jones plays Oberon in a scene from "A Midsummer Night's Dream".



Three of the essential men behind the telecast step into the limelight. Barry Lovett (left) is the assistant to Peter Collins, stage manager and announcer (centre); Cliff Maxwell is a Tv. cameraman.

TV. IS HERE!-and these are New Zealand's pioneers



## continuing the story of NEW ZEALAND'S T V. PIONEERS

Even during the short time that television has been going in New Zealand, things have changed.

So that now, our Tv technicians are busy converting sets to receive a picture comprised of 625 lines instead of the former 405. A sharper, clearer image will be the result.

Mr. C. A. Rowse, chief engineer and a director of the company, has been doing Tv work since 1930. He has been in New Zealand eight years—his previous experience being gained in his native England. During a ten-minute break in the telecast he told of this many-lined system of reproduction—the CCIR it is called.

A schoolboy in the control room, wearing headphones and keeping check on the sound transmission was Mr. Rowse's son Allan, aged 13. Allan has a twin brother, John, who was ill with 'flu the night the *Weekly* watched the live broadcast. But John and Allan together have made the beginnings of a Tv set. "It's a lot of hard work," said Allan. It took the boys four or five weeks, working most of their spare time.

Strangely enough, neither John nor Allan wants to go into television or radio work after leaving school. Allan is taking a commercial course and wants to go into a bank. John's love is carpentry. "But Dad doesn't seem to mind," added Allan.

Then the broadcast was resumed.

For two hours we watched a "live" broadcast taking place. There were so many people involved that it was difficult to tell just who was who—and quite often people who were "off camera" would scuttle over the actual working area while the cameras were taking, and contrive to keep out of their range. Friends and relations and past and future performers crowded three sides of the room. Their cigarettes glowed in the dark beyond the pool of light where performers were going through their routines.

"When you write this up," said Mrs. Vivian Scott, programme organiser, "I would like you to say how much we appreciate the work of all these per-



*In a back room under a dim light, a man works to bring fresh entertainment to New Zealand homes. He's Mr. C. A. Rowse, Tv's chief engineer*

formers. Many of them are professionals—and of course there can be no question of payment for the work that they are doing here." Mrs. Scott is a committee member of Pacific Tv Productions—the group which assembles all the talent for Auckland's live broadcasts. Pacific Tv Productions is

quite separate from the firm to which the technicians belong. The Tv station which the firm runs broadcasts films during the week, but Sunday is its big night for live work.

Mrs. Scott explained that it was a case of engineers and performers helping each other. The technicians needed the challenge of live broadcasts and the performers needed the challenge of facing Tv cameras. Some of them wanted to make a career of television when it became "big time" and for them the experience that these Sunday telecasts provide is invaluable.

The variety of entertainment offered is quite staggering. Magicians, ballet dancers, singers of every type, fencers, Indian classical dancers, monologists, models, actors—all have taken part in shows.

There is a special news service, too. Items of local news are filmed through the week and the commentary recorded. Then, during a live broadcast, the movie strips are sandwiched between introductory passages spoken by the announcer, who is in turn shown on the screen.

Auckland's Tv, other centres will be envious to hear, has been operating for over a year. The standard of transmission is improving all the time, and the project expanding and involving more people. Station ZL1XQ therefore still bills itself as an "experimental" Tv station.

But the people who are behind the telecasts have great faith in the medium's future in New Zealand. They feel that the time will soon come—indeed, it may be here already—for the "experimental" label to be dropped. Though this country could not hope to supply the constant stream of live talent required for exclusively local broadcasts, there are plenty of films available from British and American sources. Transmissions may at first have to be restricted to a few hours daily, but the experts guarantee rapid expansion.

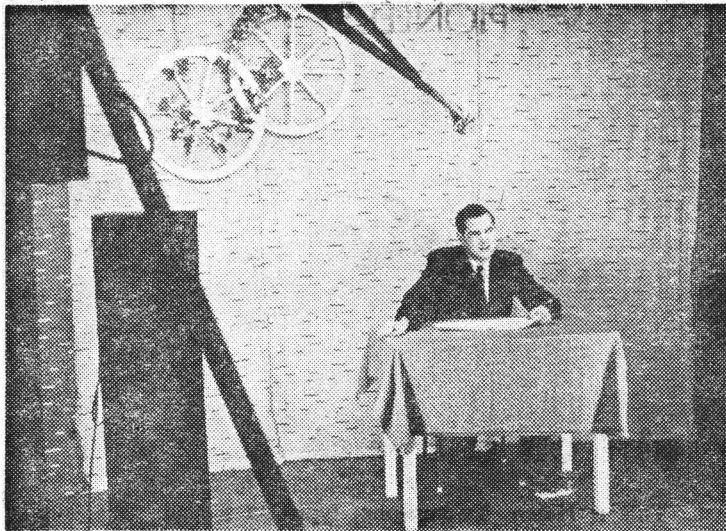
Somebody is always wondering why we do not have large-scale Tv in New Zealand. And the people who are connected with the broadcasts from

Station ZL1XQ are amongst them. They are as eager as the public to see it become part of our New Zealand life, and they feel that they can offer us quite a contribution to the cause for national pride. Meanwhile, as the arguments go on as to whether the country is suited to television and who should have control of it, the personnel of New Zealand's Tv Experimental Station pursue their quiet course, providing evenings of entertainment for quite a few Aucklanders.

And what's more—so far, it's free!

by SHIRLEY WYNNE ARTHUR  
photography:—BERNIE HILL



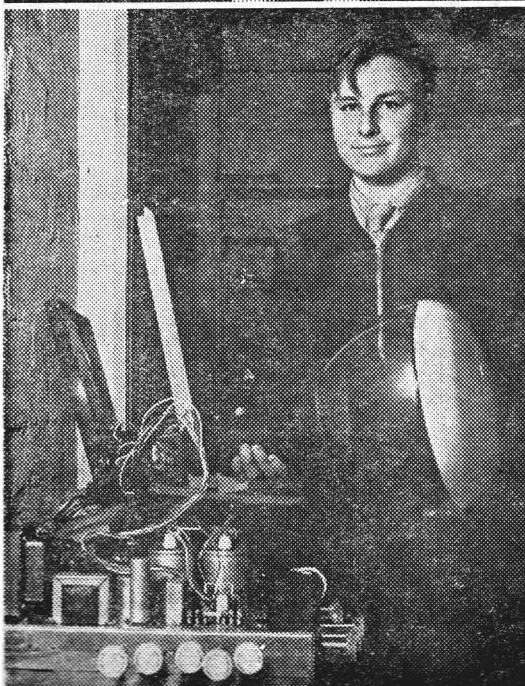


Above, left: News commentator Merv. Smith broadcasts from the studio. Right, above: Two monitor sets at the side of the stage show technicians how things are going.



Left: Cameraman Shefford . . . deep in concentration.

Below: Going off the air, Pacific Tv Productions displays its brand new emblem. The committee members are (l-r), Mrs. Vivian Scott, Mrs. Ngaire Stuart, Peter Collins, Bill Logie and Dick Turner. Normally, people appearing on Tv don green lipstick, otherwise they look mouthless. Called on camera suddenly, this committee hadn't time.



Above: Allan Rowse, who helps his father.

