



The Phonographic Record

The Journal of The Vintage Phonograph Society of New Zealand

A Society formed for the preservation of Recorded Sound

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Page 45.

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Another year of the Society's life is nearly over and the Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, 23rd September. We draw the attention of members to Section XV of the Constitution Rules which calls for nominations for the election of Officers. Such nominations this year must be in the hands of the Secretary not later than 8th September, 1968. Out-of-town members are also reminded that they may vote by proxy. Any member requiring a copy of The Constitution Rules should get in touch with the Secretary.

PLEASE NOTE: Any member (Senior or Junior) may make a nomination which must be seconded by another member and be accepted by the person nominated.

NO NOMINATIONS will be accepted unless ALL these conditions have been complied with.

A STITCH IN TIME A recent enquiry concerning a stolen phonograph, highlighted something which is often overlooked by collectors. Could YOU, if asked, positively identify ALL your machines. Listing the serial numbers is helpful but rather negative as the metal identification plate can easily be prised off. The answer seems to be some mark painted or carved in an inconspicuous place. And are your machines and records insured? Cash may not make up for the loss of possessions but it does enable you to get together the nucleus of another collection.

HAIL AND FAREWELL We are pleased to announce that we are able to supply reproduction two-piece cranes for cygnet horns. These are an excellent copy of the original and the cost is \$2 N.Z. plus postage. We also wish to advise that the witches hat horns are out of stock. The reception of these horns has been excellent and it is hoped to have them and the Gem horns in stock again soon.

WANTED KNOWN Over 300 Operatic 78s for disposal. Prefer to exchange but will sell if you have nothing to offer. Please write to W. Main, 93 Burma Rd., Wellington N5, New Zealand
listing wants.

WANTED TO BUY Conrad Veldt Parlophone A3733 "Where The Lighthouse Shines Across the Bay" - 'Airman Song'. Contact Mrs. Audrey Parker, 72 Barrington Street, Christchurch 2, New Zealand.

THAT WAS THE MONTH THAT WAS

The July Meeting was again well attended. We were all very sorry to hear that Committee Member Joffre Marshall was in hospital. Some discussion was held on the subject of future meeting programmes;

it was felt that speakers from other "Antique" and "Vintage" Societies should be invited to speak to us. The programme consisted of a most entertaining and thought provoking talk by Mr. W.E. Webb illustrated with some excellent examples of humour on record.

THE SOCIETY AT YOUR SERVICE

In last issue we commented upon the rapid increase of membership and we are happy to report that our numbers are still rising. This seems an appropriate time to take stock of the services the Society can offer to members:-

Our Committee Members are available at any time to assist in the valuation of any prospective purchase.

The Society itself has for sale a number of reproduction parts for phonographs and original parts for gramophones. We can also put you in touch with members who will make many parts to order.

It is often possible for us to 'match up' a buyer and seller so let us know of your surplus material. Also-advertisements for The Phonographic Record are accepted at the rate of 15 cents an inch.

The Phonographic Record is written for your enjoyment and instruction. It is issued bi-monthly and we try to cover as wide a range of subject matter as possible. You can help by letting us know what you would like to read about. Back copies of the magazine are available. Your Subscription covers the current volume. Next issue will be Volume 4 issue 1 - there then being three completed published volumes. We have imported from England, a binder made to our special order. It is in blue with The Phonographic Record in gold down the spine, The price-\$1.35 N.Z. and its a necessity for members who wish to retain their copies of the magazine in good condition.

The Society badge is available at \$1.00 N.Z.

New Zealand members can avail themselves of Library facilities. Books will be added and details printed in The Phonographic Record.

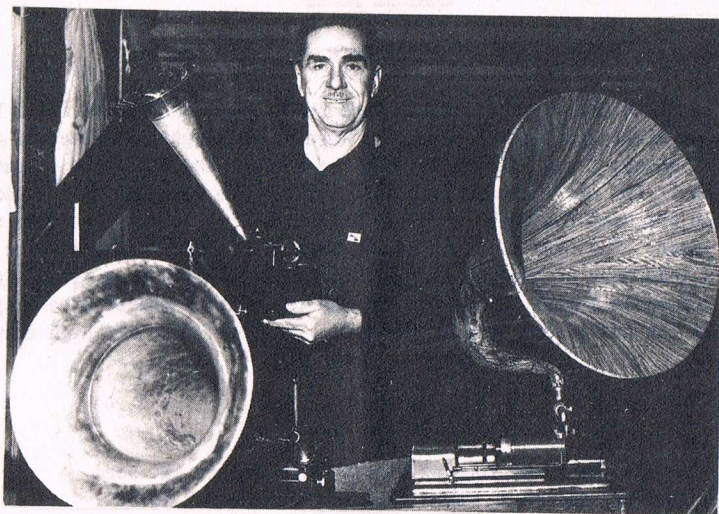
Society Meetings are held in Christchurch at 8 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month in the Red Room, St. Johns Church, Latimer Square. We welcome any out-of-town members who are able to attend.

If there is anything else the Society can do to assist you please tell us.

MORE ABOUT REPRODUCERS

THE VICSONIA MANUFACTURING COMPANY INCORPORATED by Walter Norris.

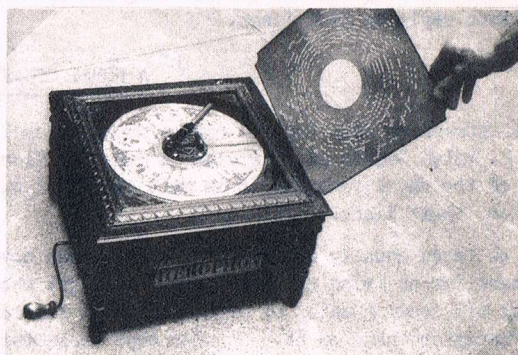
This company manufactured an attachment designed to fit either the Victrola (H.M.V.) or Graftonola (Columbia) gramophones and with its aid enabled the user to play Edison Diamond Discs. As far as I know none of these reproducers has been heard of or seen by New Zealand collectors but because of an advertisement I have acquired, it appears they were made. Claims for the reproducer were that it would not wear or deteriorate with ordinary usage. Users were warned not to drop the head on the record but to let it down gently and not to knock it against the side of the record. The reproducer was manufactured by the Vicsonia Manufacturing Company Incorporated, 313 East 134th Street, New York. Mr. Woledge tells me that all companies which made diamonds for reproducing Edison Diamond Discs could not make them to wear like Edison Diamonds and he felt that most, if not all, were only sapphires.



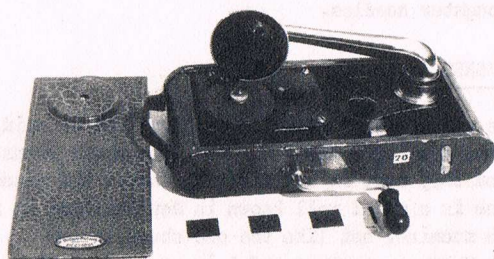
PHOTOGRAPH - CHRISTCHURCH STAR

BILL DINI WITH THE "DINI FLARE" ON THE RIGHT

RIGHT:- THE HEROPHON



BELOW:- A CAMERAPHONE



HARRY LAUDER

MUSICAL BOXES

A Machine Which Plays Paper Discs - THE HEROPHON by Walter Norris.

Several makers produced this type of machine and not a great deal about it is known to me. The Herophon was seen on my first visit to the Dominion Museum, Wellington and because of the kindness of the late Mr. Charles Lindsay, I was allowed to play the machine and also take it out into the daylight for a photograph which is the one reproduced in this issue. The Herophon is the same as the Tanzbar in that the part which produces the tune is purely mechanical and does not require a vacuum as do many machines using paper. The tune sheet is in the form of a stiff cardboard disc which sits on top of the machine and is held down by a clamp in the centre. Underneath is a set of spring loaded retractable fingers set on an angle. These pop through the sheet whenever a hole appears; these are forced down again when the end of the hole is reached. This principle although simple in operation does wear the disc.

A RECORD OF RECORDS

G.B.E.

You Can Look and You Can Listen - But Mum is the Word
Sung by Ada Jones, Edison 4 minute wax amberol No. 33.

This record, I feel, is a fine example of the talented Ada Jones, an artiste who was one of the most popular of all recording 'stars' in the early days. Being an early 4 minute wax cylinder, it is announced in the usual Edison style (the announcer sounds like Ed Meeker but I do not know for certain.) The item recorded is a comic song and although lacking any actual "jokes" is sung in a very exuberant style by Miss Jones.

A ROYAL OCCASION

We illustrate in this issue a rather unusual Royal record label. It is a REX recording of the Band of H.M. Welsh Guards playing "Land of Hope and Glory", and "Let Us Sing Unto Their Majesties." Like most of the Royal records, it is most colourful with King George V and Queen Mary flanked by the familiar 'Rex' lions.

What we found equally interesting was the card cover on this particular disc. On one side is an advertisement for an Irish chemist Thomas M. Wright who 'accurately compounded prescriptions' as well as stocking all leading makes of gramophones and records. The portable gramophone appears to us to have the "Songster" name on it. As with most collectors we are very familiar with Songster needles; we were therefore interested to know that the Company apparently also made machines? Any information? The other side of the cover is an advertisement for Songster needles.

"MINI" GRAMOPHONES

Many of the Cameraphones found by collectors have a history shrouded in mystery. It is said that some were made for use by services personnel during the First World War but this never seems to have been confirmed. Many were made in Switzerland and they come in a variety of shapes and sizes but all are based on similar principles. The Mikiophone is a model well known in New Zealand; it is round in shape and the sound head is separate from the machine; not like the one shown in our illustration. This model looks like the folding Kodak Camera. Another model is square, looking like the Kodak Box Brownie.

As a rule, such gramophones are poor players not only small in motor but also small in

the amount of sound produced. We are indebted to an overseas collector for our illustration.

DID YOU SEE? by A.J.R.

Occasionally one sees on television a short programme or part of a programme of interest to some members of the Society. Just lately there have been several such occasions and in case you missed them they are mentioned here so that you can be watching should they ever be repeated.

"House of Treasures" has been a very interesting series of short programmes on various groups of exhibits on display at the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Harris Street, Sydney, Australia. Among other things the programmes dealt with clocks, typewriters, phonographs and music boxes.

"Alice" (the story behind Alice in Wonderland) was of interest to sharp-eyed fans of the British Music Hall. The voice of the gardener at the University sounded familiar and sure enough the actor turned out to be that great old comedian, Billy Russell. Billy Russell is probably best known for his act "On Behalf of the Working Classes" and I know of at least three different recordings of this - as part of the record "Stars Who Made The Music Hall" (Decca Ace of Clubs ACLM 1170), this was recorded live at the Argyle Theatre; as an E.P. entitled "On Behalf of the Working Classes" and as a 78 r.p.m. disc under the same title, recorded, I think, at the Tivoli Theatre, Sydney some time before the Second World War.

"The Blue Lamp". A full length film, again of interest to Music Hall fans in that it showed part of the act of a famous English comedienne, Tessie O'Shea. If my memory serves me right, the hall was the Metropolitan, Edgewood Road. For those interested in hearing Tessie O'Shea, the record mentioned above - "Stars who made the Music Hall" can be recommended.

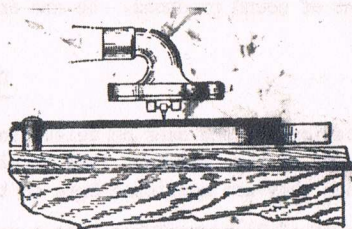
BOOK REVIEW - THE AUTOBIOGRAPHIES OF HARRY LAUDER

Reviewed by Walter Norris

Much has been written about this artist and here I would like to use some more space to introduce you to the three of the autobiographies of which I know - that there may be more I am ready to acknowledge and would welcome any information on that point. The three books are all well worth reading, but the one which I enjoyed most was "Roamin' In The Gloamin'."

Chronologically, the first book appears to be "Harry Lauder at Home and on Tour" published in January 1907. This book makes delightful reading and the extract printed below is chosen because it tells of Lauder's making of his first record for a large company. "When the orchestra and the operator were all ready I was told to 'fire away'. I proceeded to fire. I managed the first verse all right and then sprang my first gag. But I forgot where I was and waited for the applause. Deep stillness reigned supreme! I couldn't help it - I burst out laughing and fell off the stool on which I had been placed to bring my mouth up to the level of the receiver (recording horn). The operator rushed out from his box, the musicians screamed with merriment - and the record was spoiled. 'This is the daftest thing I ever did' I remarked on scrambling to my feet. 'Fancy singing a song into a big tin tube! 'Look here' I said to the manager who was standing holding his sides 'How much am I to get for this because there's nae use o' being daft if yer no to be paid for it.' There was more laughter all round and I was told that my fee would be - well the figure was alright mind I'm telling ye! 'Ca awa' said I. 'I'm your man.'"

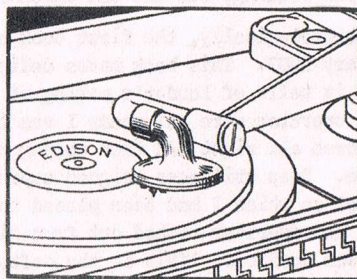
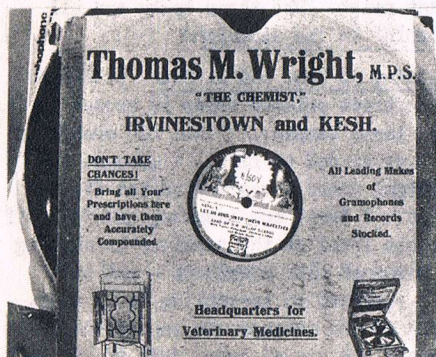
Roamin' in the Gloamin' is a fine book and in my opinion, the best. My copy of this book contains 287 pages and twenty-four illustrations. The book tells a large part of his life story and



THE CORRECT PLAYING POSITION OF THE VICSONIA REPRODUCER



— ON THE GRAFONOLA



— AND THE VICTROLA

THE REX ROYAL RECORD
AND CARD COVER

is filled with good humour from beginning to end; it is simply told as only Lauder could tell it. He describes how he came to write songs such as "I Love A Lassie" and "Roamin' in the Gloamin'." He also tells a little more of his gramophone record making. These records he made and sold the copyright outright to the company, which was unfortunate for him, as, had he done as Caruso did, that is to have the records sold on a royalty basis, he would have made millions from his records. He sold songs such as "She's Ma Daisy" and "Stop Yer Tickling Jock" for £1 each, or six songs for a fiver. This seems really cheap to us but, as Lauder points out, £5 was all a miner could earn for two weeks' work.

The third book is "A Minstrel in France"; this was published in 1918 and tells of his adventures in France entertaining the troops during the first World War. This book is also well written and the copy I have seen contains 320 pages and eight illustrations. This whole book is dedicated to his only son John who was killed in action; His death was a great blow to Lauder.

And just to give you a few personal details about this very famous entertainer. I add this 'potted biography.' HARRY LAUDER - Born in Portobello, near Edinburgh, Scotland on August 4, 1870, he was the son of John Lauder trainer of Amateur and Professional foot runners. His father died while Harry was young so he went to work to help his mother support the rest of the family. He started to sing at the age of 12 and sang before Edward VII in 1908 at Ruthfod Abbey, in a Command Performance and later before George V in 1912. He visited New Zealand four times, at one time going fishing with Donald McDonald down Invercargill way, describing this country as a 'fisherman's paradise'. Died on February 26, 1950 at the age of 79.

THE LIBRARY

This list of the first fifteen books in the library will be added to from time to time and should be used as a master list to enable books to be requested:-

1. The Musical Educator (5 volumes) by Greig.
2. Encyclopaedia of Recorded Music - The Gramophone Shop.
3. The Record Guide by Sackville-West and Shawe-Taylor.
4. The Fabulous Phonograph by Gelatt.
5. Music and the Gramophone by Wilson.
6. The Story of Sound Recording by Batten.
7. Instruction booklet for the CHENEY.
8. Old Clocks by Wenhan.
9. Collecting Music Boxes by Ord-Hume.
10. Radio Times Music Handbook by Scholes.
11. The Progress of Music by Dyson.
12. What Jazz is All About by Erlich.
13. Kathleen Ferrier edited by Cardus.
14. Joan Sutherland by Braddon.
15. Peter Dawson - Fifty Years of Song.

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF MACHINES

Making a Flare for an "Opera" Horn by Bill Dini

About a year ago I exchanged an Edison Home with diamond reproducer and wooden horn for a very dilapidated Concert without the wooden 'bell' or 'flare'. It also had various other parts missing and broken. The gooseneck had been used, I'm sure, for breaking coal and the crudest blacksmith's handle was supplied. Ultimately I restored the cabinet and lid to something like

original condition and made a new handle and various other parts. The reproducer was only a Model L and that without a sapphire. Fortunately I had a spare diamond reproducer, but I restored the L also, with a Norris-Dini pyrex stylus. I took the gooseneck to pieces, beat it to former shape and fastened it together with 'Araldite' instead of solder. I could not find an oldtime painter to 'oak-grain' the gooseneck so covered it with 'oak' wallpaper instead and it looked the part. My only problem then was that the instrument lacked the wooden bell. I tried, without success, to extract a damaged one from a fellow collector but, perhaps in his wisdom, he would have none of my suggestion. This forced me to consider making one. I had inspected a gramophone horn (an original) made of pasteboard and was impressed by it as a material. This led me to consider pasteboard as an alternative to wood and I detail the method used.

The first operation was to get a very accurate section (there are sixteen) of the original wooden bell transferred to drawing paper. This is in the form of a truncated triangle with hollow curved sides and rounded base approximately 18" x 4" (base) and 5/8" (top). The next step was to transfer this accurately to 1/16" thick aluminium to make a template. With this template, sixteen sections of 1/8" thick pasteboard were accurately cut with a sharp knife. The material, pasteboard, is a high grade paper product much superior to cardboard which is of no use for horns. (I have since discovered that a form of pasteboard with a glossy surface on each face is more superior and I recommend this.) Then strips of glazed brown paper were pasted along the joints, joining the sections together on the inside to form a complete bell. This was left to dry thoroughly. This is best done on the inside of an original wooden bell with the aid of spring clothes pegs but of course not everyone has an original so a piece of shaped wood about 2" wide or a built up shape of a board with blocks at intervals would be quite satisfactory. After the bell has dried, it requires to be stapled along the joints about every 1" or less; this using in all about 800 staples which are hammered flush with the surface with a heavy piece of metal on one side and a hammer on the other. A very tedious process! The next part made was the rim bead. This was made from 5/8" diameter cane cut accurately down the centre; about 6ft is needed. A 21 1/2" circle is then marked out on heavy ply or an old table top and the cut bead is boiled and bent and tacked on the circle and left to dry with 4" lap. After drying, the lap was tapered and glued and fastened together with staples. After the lap dried, the bead was glued and stapled to the rim of the bell. The whole bell was then covered with oak (or mahogany) wall paper, using the template to cut out 32 pieces, 16 inside and 16 outside. (Don't forget to make them 1/2" wider than the template to get a 1/2" lap.) About 12 curved pieces approximately 1" wide were pasted neatly over the bead and the whole took on the appearance of the original wooden horn. After complete drying the whole was varnished with clear tung oil varnish. The wallpaper requires pasting well on both sides before applying to make it take the hollow curve of the horn, but care should be taken not to damage the surface or the "wood" effect is spoilt.

The whole process is not beyond any good handyman and I would be pleased to assist any member who cares to try it. I would be pleased to supply a drawing paper template to any member who requires it and would in exceptional circumstances lend my metal template. To me the satisfaction in making a bell is completed by the unanimous opinion that the acoustic properties of the substitute horn are undoubtedly superior to the original.