



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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FRANK CRUMIT



CEDAR

Spectacular Sound

AROUND THE CORNER

*Illustration shows C.D. cover.
See article inside.*

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

With the summer almost over we look forward to the new year of 1992, and hope that the poor economic position the country is in improves.

The experts are saying that it is improving but most of us do not see it.

What we do notice is that sales of goods we manufacture are declining and expenses continue to rise, with the result, some action has to be taken for us to obtain a credit balance next year.

This was a topic of discussion at our January and February meetings. The end result was to increase the cost of packing, but not yet to raise subscriptions.

NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

On behalf of the Society I would like to thank all members who sent cards etc. over the festive season; these were appreciated and it is always nice to hear from members both in New Zealand and further afield.

Parts:

We have now resumed packing orders and would advise members we have good stocks of most parts. A new sales list was sent out to members with their last magazine and it would be helpful if when ordering, you refer to this latest list.

Subscriptions:

Some members are still in arrears with subscriptions due 1st September last. As cost of magazine, postage, etc. is quite expensive we are unable to send further issues to those in arrears. Your early attention to this matter would ensure continuation.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF PHONOGRAPH SOCIETY HELD ON

23rd SEPTEMBER 1991

Lynn Kirsop (nee Laird)

This meeting was held at Van's home which is in the heart of the city. We arrived at the door of a beautiful old character house to be ushered into the long hallway and headed towards the lounge. We were all welcomed by Van as we arrived and I was busy admiring all the lovely antiques around us. There was a very beautiful old wall clock with chimes and lovely gold figures on top. Numerous ornaments and artifacts were on bookcases around the room including some very interesting ones from African countries. He even had two wooden fertility cymbals there which someone handed me as a joke. I'd better watch out as I'm a married lady now.

The main business of the meeting was opened with 16 members present. Walter was renominated President as he has always done such an excellent job and was a popular choice.

Peter was re-elected Treasurer and a Committee of three was appointed.

We have had three new overseas members joined recently from the States and Australia. Parts were discussed as usual.

The Christmas function was discussed also but as yet a venue has not been decided.

Walter brought along some reproducers for Edison Gem, etc. made from fibre and they were different weights and sizes. He has a boxful and these were duly passed around and examined (especially by the handymen of the Society).

Some recent magazines from New York, Australia and Canada Societies were handed around for our perusal.

The notice of an auction in America caught my eye with its street pianos, barrel organs, etc. up for sale. They are fantastic machines but very expensive unfortunately and rare in New Zealand especially.

Van put on an excellent supper and the meeting was wound up till next time we meet at my place.

OCTOBER MEETING 1991

Report by Lynn Kirsop

This meeting was held at my place on 22nd October with twelve members present. The general busi-

Photos courtesy of Larry Schlick

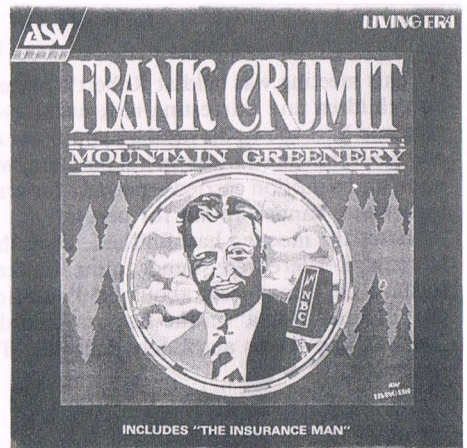


PHOTOS BY D. TAYLOR

Frank Crumit



TOTAL
PLAYING TIME
58 mins 28 secs



ness was taken care of including accounts etc. We then discussed the Christmas function and it was decided upon to hold it at the Russley Hotel on Sunday 8th December.

This was greeted with much anticipation. Afterwards finances and correspondence to the Society was discussed. The meeting closed at 9.30p.m. to be followed, as usual, by members showing us interesting curios etc. Dick Hills had a tape for sale of music-box tunes etc. recorded from old machines belonging to various collectors. It was an excellent tape and some orders were taken. We then had supper to conclude the evening.

NOVEMBER MEETING 1991

By Lynn Kirsop

This was held at the home of Dick and Lyn Hills, with eleven members present. Accounts were presented, including one for the magazine costs, printing, etc. Members showed us some machines after the formal part of the evening. Ross had a portable "Guilitone" in excellent condition he had purchased for \$50. Dick Hills brought along a dictaphone 'Edison' wind-up cylinder machine (approximately 1907). He also had some photos of his recent trip to Sydney and some miniature records. An interesting toy he brought back was a wind-up car which climbs walls (most amusing!). Also he had a poster of a dog and gramophone with a twist!! The dog is lifting his leg on it. Most unfortunate, I don't think it will sell. He also has a doorbell that plays several tunes, among his treasures. A lovely supper was then enjoyed by all.

REPORT ON JANUARY 1992 MEETING

By Lynn Kirsop

I was not present at this meeting held at Bill and Lyndsay's place but I will do my best to report on it from the minutes. There were nine members present. Lyndsay was on leave as secretary for two months during November and December, as she was busy preparing for her daughter's wedding. I filled in for her during that time and was quite pleased to hand back the reins! She really does an excellent job and is a real 'Gem' to the Society. Thanks a lot Lyndsay it is much appreciated.

Well, anyway getting back to the meeting. Mr Shaw sent some lovely photos of his collection, also there was a letter from Mr Lynd of Tasmania and photos of his Mickiphone. The question of outstanding subs was discussed and also the Society's financial situation

It was mentioned there are not a lot of machines for sale at present, although Robert does have an Amberola 30 for sale at \$550, but the stylis is not functioning properly. He has just been up to Blenheim but nothing interesting for sale at present. Ross Bond demonstrated his HMV 101 Portable, purchased from Portabello Antiques.

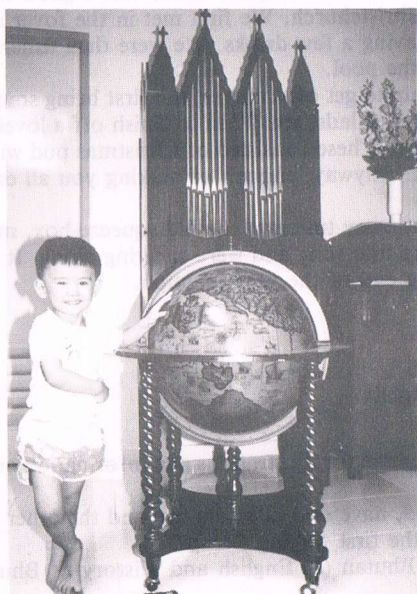
Supper concluded the evening.

REPORT ON FEBRUARY MEETING 1992

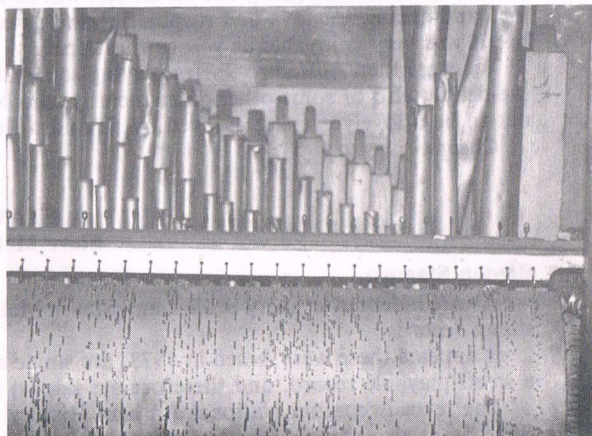
By Lynn Kirsop

This meeting was held at Robert's place, always a very busy but homely place with lots of animals and children and interesting nick-nacks everywhere. Griss, the family dog always greets everyone in turn and likes to rest his head on your knee and be generally made a fuss of. There was ten of us present and we commenced with general business, which included a bid to raise packing prices. This was decided upon and a motion carried especially for cranes, horns, etc. Lots of correspondence was read and catalogues etc. handed round for perusal.

After the meeting had finished, Dick showed us a special 'sound effects' record he had managed to acquire. There were sounds, quite lifelike, of trains and factory sirens. Robert had a 'Wondergram' to show us, quite recent about 1950's and quite compact which ran on batteries. Joffre played for us the 'Bluebell Polka' on the Button Accordeon. We then enjoyed supper kindly prepared by Maxine Sleeman and it was absolutely delicious. Thank you to the Sleeman family for their hospitality.

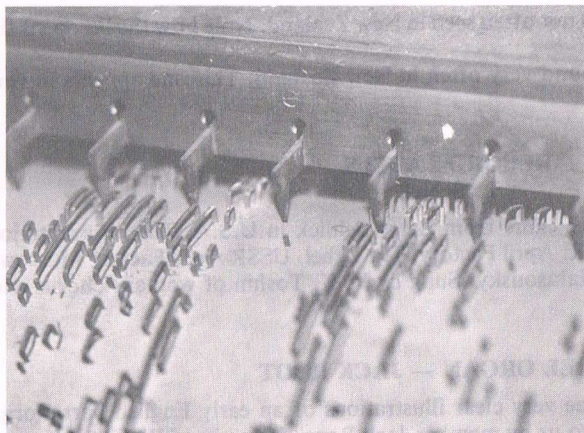


BARREL- ORGAN



Photo's Jack Root

Harold Burtoft's
Hot Air Fan



REPORT ON CHRISTMAS DINNER FUNCTION 1991

This annual function was held on Sunday 8th December at 7.30p.m. There was a good turn-out of members and it was held at the Russley Hotel in Christchurch. We first met in the foyer and sat in the plush surroundings greeting one another and having a few drinks. We were then ushered into a lovely enclosed area of the restaurant overlooking the pool.

It was a smorgasboard meal so we all went in turn up to get our courses, the first being soup, then the mains and there was such a lovely selection of meats, salads, etc. Then to finish off a lovely meal amidst all the chatter going on, the dessert was to follow. These consisted of Christmas pud with custard and cream, Pavlova and raspberries and gateaux. Anyway, enough of making you all envious, but it was very enjoyable as you can imagine!

We were then treated to Joffre playing some Christmassy tunes on the old squeeze-box, much to the delight also of some other diners nearby who broke into song and were cheering along. It turned out to be a lovely evening enjoyed by all and a fitting end of the year function.

Cheers.

STAMPS

Steve McLaughlin

Bhytan Stamps:

We are indebted to Larry Schlick and Steven McLaughlan for illustrations and information on these stamp records.

It appears these were issued in 1973, are single sided, have one side adhesive and the other side is a small playable record, and therefore are known as the first talking stamps.

The records contain National Anthem History of Bhutan (in English and History of Bhutan in Bhutanese) also various Bhutanese folk songs.

Editor: As far as we know rare in New Zealand and now unobtainable here. Further information would be appreciated.

K. SHAW'S COLLECTION

Mr Kevin Shaw of Turangi, New Zealand sent us a number of nice photographs of his collection four of which we have included in this issue.

These are of an Earla experimental radio. Laboratories model. Note the early diaphragm speaker and early electric fans.

The Opollo gramophone is a model not often seen in New Zealand. Note how the lid opens the other way.

Lumiere Consul model also not found very often in New Zealand. This one appears in very good condition.

RECORD LABELS

L. Schick

The Russian record label and sleeve came from Larry Schlick in U.S.A. The interpretation is on the cover. Ministry of Agriculture USSR. April Factory. The Label. USSR April Factory Moscow Nights music by Soloviev Seday, words by Malusousky. Sung by V. K. Toshin of womans chorus and Band of Union Radio.

BARREL ORGAN — JACK ROOT

We have included in this issue three very clear illustrations of an early English barrel organ.

The photographs were kindly sent to us by member Jack Root, formerly of Wellington, now living in Singapore.

This barrel organ which appears has an Astor & Co. label and was built in the 1800s and has 80 wood and lead pipes.

Has stops, Diapason, principal, twelfth and fifteenth drum and triangle missing.

The cylinders play lovely hymns, popular songs and dances.

Editor: We have a book — “Church and Chamber Barrel-Organs” by Buston & Langwill. This publication of 120 pages covers barrel organ builders. It mentions George Astor: 79 Cornhill, London. Traded as G. Astor & Co. (1798-1815) and also Astor and Horwood of the same address. London 1815-1831.

VIDEO DISCS AND FINGERTIP SECURITY

Contributed by B. A. Blanchard, 48 Avenue Road, Timaru, New Zealand
(Part 2)

The photocopier can be used to create new and amazing effects and textures that create a picture which can be processed to produce unique results. By superimposing and magnifying or reducing, a wide variation of results are available producing exact reproductions of the same images within the original.

Soon we will see the emergence of the total musician. Multi-talented musicians will be able to stand alone in front of an audience and produce all the sound of a total support band or orchestra on a small keyboard or touch panel, adding only their own voices.

A singer's own creativity will know no bounds as he produces the total arrangement from drums to violins and brings it all together in one complete performance.

By the year 2000, fax machines will become available for home use, in fact, many homes will have one. Imagine being able to send a letter to friends and relatives instantly. No more the long tedious wait for mail.

In time, postal service as we know it will disappear, and fax machines will get better until full colour pictures and script can be sent and received in crystal-clear quality.

Satellites are already orbiting the world in a multitude of forms and sizes and the many communication satellites will grow in number.

Soon it will be a commonplace addition to have a satellite receiving dish in each neighbourhood, feeding all houses in the area.

The world will truly be at our fingertips with the ability to tune into other countries' television broadcasts. Sports events, world news, educational items and science subjects will all be instantly available at any time of the day.

The most spectacular growth industry will feature total intercommunication between individuals by portable video telephones, possibly worn on the wrist or in small pouch packs which will enable anyone to contact almost anybody anywhere, and at any time.

Holograms:

The few topics discussed in this article just scratch the surface of the potential technological advances of the future.

Not mentioned are the development of holograms in greatly improved quality, wall-sized television screens, and solar power being harnessed to recharge rechargeable appliances and portable items.

Beyond 2000, I can afford to speculate on some of the “possibles” or “maybes” of my imagination.

Such things as mind transfer from one brain to another, allowing years of experience to pass from one to another in an instant, are conceivable.

So are dream recording and mind control of computers. It will be possible soon to have scientific proof of the existence of beings from another world; however, this may be only in the form of radio waves.

Motors that run solely on magnetism and kinetic energy, teleportation of solids and people from one place to another in an instant, and a spare parts service for replacement of ageing and damaged human organs and limbs may all be possible one day.

78s collector is also a storyteller

CARUSO laughs beautifully," whispers Robert Hollingum as he adjusts the treble to reduce the crackle and hiss on a prized 1904 recording of the maestro tenor singing "Vesti La Giubba" from the opera "Pagliacci".

The recording is just one of a carefully curated collection of between 6000 and 8000 records of the 78 revolutions-a-minute category. They belong to the Kaiapoi man known affectionately by some as "Old Music".

As Caruso lets go with his rich laugh, Robert Hollingum sorts through a collection of several hundred postcards of Edwardian singers, trying to find Lily Langtry. The postcards, he says, were used by the singers for publicity purposes.

One wall of the music room in his suburban house is taken up, floor to ceiling, with his "working collection" of about 4000 records. Another wall is decorated with old sheet music covers, mostly from this century. One dates from the 1850s.

Contained in these prosaic manilla record covers is a virtual history of popular music from the beginning of recording to the end of the 78 era in the late 1950s.

It is a trip down memory lane for anyone who listened to music before the 1960s.

Over the last few years, Robert Hollingum, aged 70, a former publicity and advertising manager with Railways in Wellington, has been busy making accessible to the community his passion for popular music and history.

He has produced a series of tapes or programmes, marrying the music to interesting information of the time, year by year, from the beginning of electronically recorded entertainment in 1926. He has also produced a number of programmes on specific themes.

Until now his programmes have been played regularly on Radio Ferrymead and in numerous homes for the elderly round Canterbury, but this year the material is going to be re-recorded and marketed commercially. Robert Hollingum is taking the financial risk in the venture, which will involve Radio Ferrymead with assistance from Radio New Zealand Archives.

A Kaiapoi man known as "Old Music" makes history programmes by marrying information to music from his thousands of old records. HOWARD KEENE reports.

"There really is no risk, and the costs will be recovered," he says. "Even if they're not, it's not going to break me."

Any collection is notable for its oddities, and before I arrive he has used his computer to pick out and list some of the more interesting titles.

Who could resist a 1953 record of Ronald Reagan reading Bible stories, or Lord Baden Powell singing at Boy Scout headquarters at Gilwell, England, circa 1950.

He describes his record of a choir of canaries singing or, more correctly, chirping Handel's "Largo" in 1930s Germany.

"The Germans love their singing birds," he says. "They recorded a number of songs. I think Handel's 'Largo' was a good one. It shows the birds in slow tempo."

"There's musical accompaniment in the background, of course. They don't leave it all to the birds."

Early New Zealand recordings, particularly those done in Christchurch, are valued by the collector.

"Blue Smoke" sung by Pixie Williams in 1948 and released by TANZA (To Assist New Zealand Artists) was the first record to be wholly processed in New Zealand.

"TANZA went on to put out several hundred titles, including some by Happi Hill, quite a Christchurch personality, who used to work at Drayton Jones."

Robert Hollingum has records from a 1938 competition held to find a New Zealand answer to Deanna Durbin, an American singing actress. They include performances by the Christchurch provincial finalist and the national winner, who was only 14 years old.

All available resources are used for his taped recordings in the search for material to complement his music collection. Old newspapers are particularly useful in producing cameos of the times.

"Here are four programmes waiting to be done," he says, reaching for the hand-written scripts on the table. "Each takes me from a week to a fortnight."

He is working on one which covers from "the year dot in recording, around the turn of the century" to 1926 when electrical recording came in.

Research on Dame Nellie Melba to find material to accompany one of her recordings from about 1922 has turned up a wonderful story.

"Once when Melba and Caruso were at Covent Garden singing 'Your Tiny Hand Is Frozen', Caruso pressed a hot sausage into Melba's hand which he had his assistant pass from the wings. Yelping with shock Melba flipped the sausage in the air and it bounced across the stage to the bewilderment of the audience."

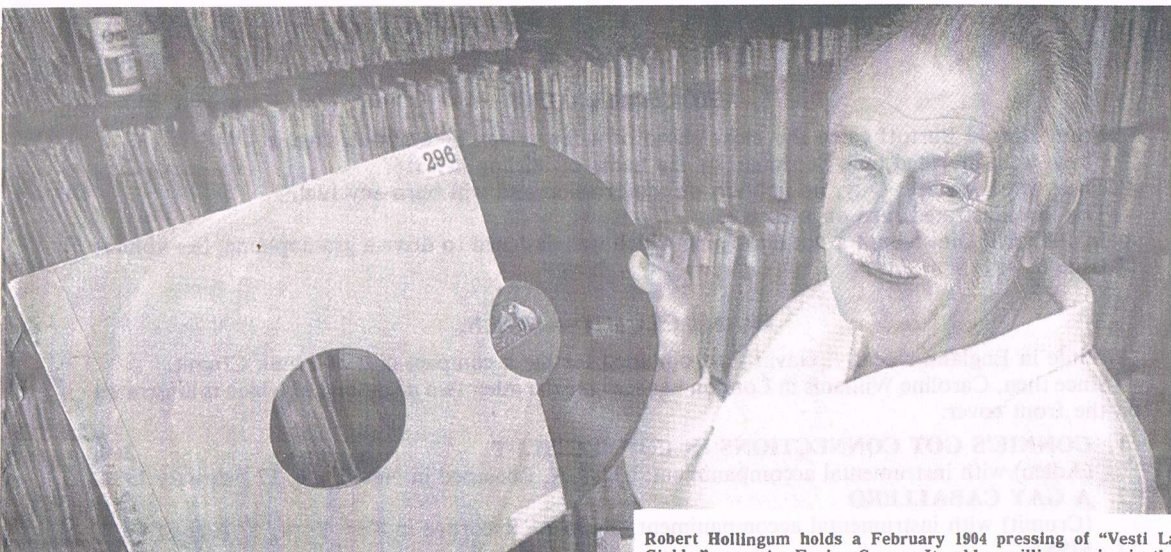
"She gritted out a few choked words of anger, but Caruso's superb voice continued unbroken with the love song. Then during a pause for breath he grinned at her and said: 'English lady, you like sausage?' Melba was infuriated and afterwards always referred to him as 'that Italian peasant'."

To go with a 1920s song called "Lazy Weather", Mr Hollingum has decided to weave in a story of supposedly the laziest man in the world, who got out of bed after 29 years.

"James Thompson hadn't been seen outside his home in the Ulster village of Clare since 1877. The subject of village gossip and speculation, he was forced out of bed when his 80-year-old mother became too ill to look after him."

"They diagnosed him as having a severe case of chronic lethargy, which they were unable to cure even by using electric shocks and irritating plasters. He was simply too tired to respond."

In a more serious vein he has tied in stories of the English suffragettes to use with "The Prisoners' Song".



Robert Hollingum holds a February 1904 pressing of "Vesti La Giubba", sung by Enrico Caruso. It sold a million copies in the United States and received the first gold award.

"They were in and out of jail for all sorts of offences," he says of the suffragettes. "I'm sure they wished someone would love them. They had a helluva job. It's a dismal chapter in British democratic rights."

Robert Hollingum believes the type of entertainment he produces can brighten the lives of old people who are often in situations that fit and healthy people do not contemplate.

"Large numbers of people are bedridden, their eyesight has failed and they can't watch television, but they can still hear. They need some form of entertainment to take their minds off the rather unfortunate circumstances they find themselves in, and give them back the thing they like best — their own past."

Sometimes he gets "almost electric responses" from people who have not heard some of the numbers since they were young.

So far he has made about 70 programmes, and he plans to at least double that total. Themes include supermarkets, roses, trees, waltzes, and there are love stories centred around the trams of Christchurch. An intriguing tape about a specific night in Christchurch in 1939 is based on information he gleaned from the entertainment pages of "The Press".

He has taken his programmes to retired people's clubs, geriatric hospitals, and retirement complexes, but he also intends trying to bridge the "generation gap" by making programmes for schools — "especially secondary schools where you can try and persuade senior classes that Grandma didn't always sit in her rocking chair knitting."

"In fact there's some hair-raising exploits that Grandma used to get up to, and in its day the Charleston was just as daring as, say, heavy metal is today."

"Grandma's parents used to call it immoral and obscene, and Grandma defied them and went out and did it."

He has taped a history of "The Beat" starting in 1891 through to "a very hot spicy number" from the 1950s, just before the end of the 78s.

"Some of the drum solos made in the late 1920s would lick hollow anything that could be produced on drums today," he says. "Some of the drum virtuosos of the early Blues era were really hot stuff."

"Young people listening to this are pretty surprised that sort of stuff existed then."

Robert Hollingum has been collecting 78s for about 35 years. He says he has never sought to collect for quantity despite his vast collection. He likes to collect quality records for a specific purpose.

The collection is virtually all popular music. Classics are a specialised field he has avoided collecting.

Some copies have been replaced six times or more as he has discovered better specimens while doing the rounds of second-hand shops.

The 1904 Caruso pressing of "Vesti La Giubba", reputedly the world's first golden disc, was a little treasure he found in a Wellington junk shop before he knew the history of it.

It is not his oldest disc. That honour goes to a 1901, one-sided Columbia pressing called "The Jolly Fellows Waltz", a title that "sounds about right for the period".

"The recording techniques were so primitive that they felt they had cut right through if they went on to the other side," says Robert Hollingum.

Robert Hollingum came to New Zealand from England at the age of seven, and when his mother died he was put in an orphanage in Timaru.

He entered the workforce as a message boy for Whitcombe and

Tombs in Christchurch, and later became a bookbinding apprentice.

On returning from overseas service during World War II, a rehabilitation loan enabled him to start a printing business, but that "flooded". After that he had a career with Railways until he retired.

Short stories written by him were published by magazines in the '50s. This resulted in him attending a residential course in 1965 at the 'New Zealand Herald' newspaper. "The 'Herald' looked on itself as a breeding ground for outstanding young journalists. I was the oldest on the course and found it was invaluable," he says.

He retired to Kaiapoi with his wife, Daphne, and it was there that presenting history through popular music got off the ground. "I went to Aged People's Welfare in Christchurch and asked if I could do a trial programme. It was a great success, and they wanted more."

A priority this year is to complete the year-by-year programmes. He is recording two programmes for each year, one based on events of the year and the other specifically related to stage and screen shows of that year.

The vast working record collection gives him several hundred titles to choose from in some years.

"On the general events side I'm up to about 1946, but I've dillied and dallied along the way," he says, recalling the words of a popular song.

"When I look at history, I don't look at the big sweeping events. I look at the little domestic things and use these. That's the history I like, the little inconsequential pieces. People relate to them."

"If you get into the lyrics of these songs, they tell it as clearly as if you'd read it in 'The Press'."

HOT AIR ENGINE

From Harold Burtoff came this clear photo of a fan driven by a hot air engine.

These were invented by a Scotsman by the name of Stirling in 1816.

These work on heat only, no ignition or compression and will burn any fuel.

The fan illustrated runs on kerosine.

In 1977 Bill Dini rebuilt a hot air engine which was designed to drive a gramophone. See volume 12 issue 6.

FRANK CRUMIT — W.T.N.

While in England recently, Gavin East obtained for me a compact disc of Frank Crumit.

Since then, Caroline Williams in London has sent me the other two discs, one of which is illustrated on the front cover.

1. **CONNIE'S GOT CONNECTIONS IN CONNECTICUT** 2:48
(Adlen) with instrumental accompaniment. 63291-A. Recorded in New York, 17 February 1938.
2. **A GAY CABALLERO** 2:55
(Crumit) with instrumental accompaniment. 38335-A. Recorded in New York, 17 August 1934.
3. **SISSY** 2:48
(Panico, Fascinato, Kahal) with instrumental accompaniment. 63443-A. Recorded in New York, 17 March 1938.
4. **WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE A WALK?** 2:44
with JULIA SANDERSON (from 'Sweet And Low') (Dixon, Rose, Warren) with orchestra, directed by Leonard Joy. BVE 67441-2. Recorded in New York, 11 February 1931.
5. **ABDUL ABULBUL AMIR** 2:53
(French, arranged Crumit) with instrumental accompaniment. 38334. Recorded in New York, 17 August 1934.
6. **THE OLD APPLE TREE** 2:29
(from 'Swing Your Lady') (Jerome, Scholl) with instrumental accompaniment. 63290-B. Recorded in New York, 17 February 1938.
7. **DOWN IN DE CANE BREAK** 2:49
(Traditional, arranged Crumit) with instrumental accompaniment. BVE 43535-2. Recorded in New York, 5 April 1928.
8. **I CAN'T STAND SITTIN' IN A CELL** 2:54
(McCarthy, Van Ness) with instrumental accompaniment. 63293-A. Recorded in New York, 17 February 1938.
9. **JOSEPHINE** 2:55
(King, Bivens, Kahn) with instrumental accompaniment. 63292-A. Recorded in New York, 17 February 1938.
10. **NETTIE IS THE NIT-WIT OF THE NETWORKS** 3:02
(East) with instrumental accompaniment. 63441-A. Recorded in New York, 17 March 1938.
11. **THE GIRL WITH THE PAINT ON HER FACE** 3:15
(Graham) with instrumental accompaniment. 63442-A. Recorded in New York, 17 March 1938.
12. **THE KING OF BORNEO** 2:22
(Crumit) with instrumental accompaniment. BVE 48306-3. Recorded in New York, 25 January 1929.
13. **SUNDAY IN THE PARK** 3:18
(Rome) with instrumental accompaniment. 63444-B. Recorded in New York, 17 March 1938.
14. **I'M BETIN' THE ROLL ON ROAMER** 2:59
(Crumit, Curtis) with orchestra, directed by Leonard Joy. BVE 62282-2. Recorded in New York, 24 June 1930.
15. **GRANDFATHER'S CLOCK** 2:54
(Work, arranged Crumit) with own guitar; Frank Banta, organ. BVE 33652-7. Recorded in Camden, New Jersey, 31 December 1925.

16. **AND THEN HE TOOK UP GOLF** 2:28
(Crumit, Rice) with own guitar; Jack Shilkret, piano. BVE 58567-5. Recorded in New York, 19 February 1930.
17. **ONE LITTLE RAINDROP** 2:30
(Richman, Meskill, Schwartz) with orchestra. BVE 67442-2. Recorded in New York, 11 February 1931.
18. **AROUND THE CORNER** 2:36
(Kassell) with orchestra, directed by Leonard Joy. BVE 62103-3. Recorded in New York, 22 April 1930.

The Twenties are generally regarded as a decade of hedonistic escapism. The War To End All Wars patently had not; riot and revolution were sweeping Europe. In the United States, bright young things were forgetting their troubles by dancing until dawn to whichever dance craze was current that particular week, smoking reefers supplied by 'Smokie Joe' or drinking gallons of bathtub gin at speak-easies. Flappers' skirts crept higher as their neck lines plunged, and the dream of every true-blooded young American was to be there when the twain finally met. It seems bizarre that, concurrent with frenetic music, loose morals and bootleg liquor, one of the most popular recording artists should be Frank Crumit, a young man who sang tuneful, pleasing songs with witty and urbane lyrics, wry good humour and a keen sense of class interpretation.

Frank Crumit was born on 26th September 1889 in Jackson, Ohio. His father was a moderately successful banker who sent his son off to the Culver Military Academy in Indiana, where Frank managed to matriculate as an engineer, despite spending half of his time on the sports field as an aggressive and dominating baseball and football player and the other half as a leading light of the amateur dramatic and musical society. After graduating from college in 1910, he half-heartedly worked as an engineer for a couple of years, but gradually found work as a song and dance man on the vaudeville stage. For several years he toured the seedier vaudeville and burlesque circuits, writing songs in his dressing-room and fitting them into shows whenever he had the opportunity.

(to be continued)

POINTS FROM LETTERS

Letter from Harold Burtoft, Australia. Dated 10th July 1991:

"...I enclose two photographs. One shows me observing a hot air fan. These have a burner in the base, kerosene burning, Stirling cycle motor. Were used in outback Australia (maybe still are) where there was no electric power.

The other shows a Royal Flying Doctor Service pedal generator, made by Alf Traegar in the late 1920's. A little rare. It supplied the high tension for the transmitter. Royal Flying Doctor Service commenced in 1927 largely due to the efforts of the Rev. John Flynn (Flynn of the Inland).

Alf Traegar has been dead for some years. Died in his early eighties. I rang him in Adelaide a couple of years before his death because he was looking for valves and sockets for a replica transceiver he was constructing. Had a good yarn with him about R.F.D.S. and was able to send him the components he required....

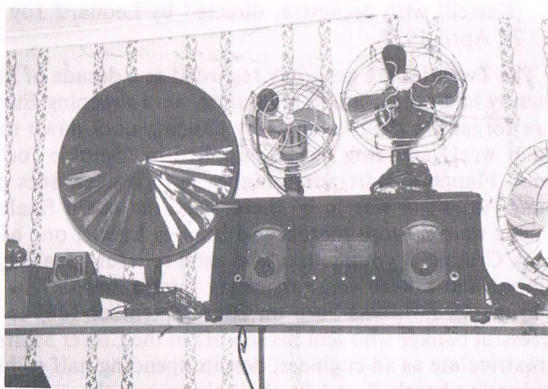
Letter from Ernie Bayly:

We had a lovely summer here — the dry sunny weather seemed to go on forever. I had two record collectors staying with me for August — from Kiev in the USSR. They must have enjoyed the seashore for they have a two hour plane flight to either the Black or Baltic Sea. One of them is just a jazz collector but the other is more general. Equally important, they both know others interested in all sorts of things, some have early 78's. They brought me some 78's by Leonid Utesov a singer/dance band leader of the 1930's/40's. The most interesting thing about these is that they have different labels — having come from various factories. Nowadays there is just the one name 'Melodiya'.

Pearl Records here has brought out an excellent 3-CD set, reissuing Music Hall 78's — some exceedingly rare. They provide a fest for those interested in Music Hall. I enclose a review which you might like to publish in your N.Z. magazine, for it would appear that some of your readers are interested.



SHAW COLLECTION



I have sent the same review to the Ontario magazine, and Hillandale News. I cannot guarantee that either will print the piece. Secondly, I expect the readership overlaps in a few cases — but there must be many who read only one mag.

I keep thinking of making a tape of my various wax cylinders of Music Hall artists. Some must be uncommon now. Reproduction is clear so a reissue should be acceptable to enthusiasts. No doubt a producer of CDs would issue it. Until last year I said that I would not buy a CD player for I have enough of other earlier types of records. But then I heard some good reissues from early 78s which suggested to me that I buy a fairly cheap player. Actually, it has proved a good thing, for most of the companies have abandoned long-play records — the CD producers are reissuing old items that interest me in the same wild profusion that they did formerly on LP. The Russians brought a pile of 'Melodiya' CDs of Russian classical music and singers to part-pay me/and raise some £££. But the customs at Heathrow seized them — and after the visitors had returned I had to go and "bail the CDs out"!!! So I have increased my collection a bit, and as you may see in Hillandale News, I'm "hawking" those I do not care for.

Have you ventured into this new form? I have shocked some "purists" here, but never mind. My main aim is to listen to music that I enjoy however produced. I don't know how long it will be before things will be stored on a 'chip'. Perhaps not in my days. If you will be able to record onto a chip yourself, it will be odd to have one's whole collection stored on a few 'chips'. Retrieval of items is always easy on records or CDs.... I don't know how it will be on a 'chip'. It is always difficult to pick out one single tune from a tape however good the "counter" on the recorder.

With those thoughts of the future I must close this evening.

All best wishes to you and yours.

THE GLORY OF MUSIC HALL

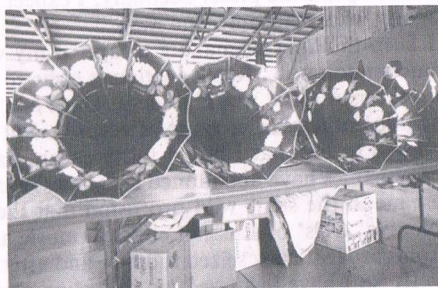
C.D. Review — Ernie Bayly

A Pearl Records 3-C.D. set reissues "The Glory of the Music Hall", each with generous playing time, and each including some very rare originals, sung by legendary artists. Charles Coborn sings his 'The man who broke the bank at Monte Carlo' and 'Two lovely black eyes' in various languages as he did on stage. This is from an announced Odeon record that, from this period, are very rare irrespective of musical content. Harry Roberts has a very amusing 'Topsy-Turvy' and Harry Anderson describes his 'Fishing Club'. R. G. Knowles has two good songs, 'Adam missed it' and 'The girl, the woman and the widow' (which I suspect were recorded much earlier than the notes claim). Eugene Stratton gives us 'Little Dolly Daydream', Dan Leno tells us "Wait till I'm his father" (the son of the widow he is to marry!!), Alec Hurley admits his foolhardiness in a pun on the work 'Piccanniny'. From World War I come Mark Sheridan's 'Belgium put the Kibosh on the Kaiser' and 'Here we are again' in a strong style as is Leo Stormont's 'Goodbye Dolly Gray' (from a previous war). Gus Elen's Berliner 'Never introduce your donah to a pal' is exceedingly rare but unfortunately is somewhat worn at the beginning. Others featured in Volume I are George Lashwood, Harry Randall, Vesta Tilley, Harry Champion and Harry Fragson with 'Paper Bag Cookery' from HMV (most of his records were on Pathe, Edison or International Zonophone — and a large proportion in French).

Volume II begins with Harry Ford's 'Poor, proud and particular', Little Tich tells of the escapades of 'The best man' and the misfortunes of a rider in 'Tally Ho'. George Robey is in "dame" roles with 'The Editress' and 'Servants' registry office'. 'Something on his mind' is one of Marie Lloyd's rarest, 'Rob Roy-Tam-o-Shanter O'Brien' is one of Harry Lauder's rarest but unfortunately its condition is poor, so is 'I'll be your sweetheart' by Lil Hawthorne (from Berliner) but we can follow this latter as we all know the words. At least we can hear the style of the voice of this legend. Harry Tate's classic 'Fishing' and Nellie Wallace's 'Cuckoo' and 'Mother's pie crust' are electrically recorded. Jack Pleasants is represented by 'I shall sulk' and 'I'm shy Mary Ellen' from Homophon (but only Edison's cylinder gives all verses). Lugubrious Sam Mayo tells us 'I was having my breakfast in bed', but cheers up for 'Put that gramophone record on again'. 'The Old Bull and Bush' is an early version, well-recorded, so we hear Florrie Forde in a young-sounding voice. We also hear from Billy Williams, Ben Albert, Belle Davis and Ellaline Terriss.



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Volume III continues the "Top-of-the-bill" programme, opening with Ella Shields, whose version makes 'If you knew Susie' sound more like a man's song than many men I've heard. Perhaps the concern about 'Germs' was new in 1922, but they're the basis of Alfred Lester's song. George Formby, Snr. dolefully tells us 'I kept on waving my flag', Maidie Scott gives the possibilities of 'If the wind had only blown the other way', G. H. Elliott is happy and optimistic with 'I've had my fortune told' but fat man Ernie Mayne complains 'I can't do my bally bottom button up'. (Incidentally Mr Mayne is buried just a few yards from Billy Williams in Shoreham's Mill Lane cemetery under his real name Barrett.) Dolly Connolly was the wife of songwriter Percy Wenrich and sings his 'Moonlight Bay'. May-Moore Duprez specialised in Dutch character songs — here 'Gretchen' — and Jen Latona, who often accompanied herself on piano, has a band here for 'Rickety Stairs'. Clarice Mayne, accompanied by 'That' (James Tate) on piano has two good songs 'Come over the garden wall' and 'Mrs & Mrs Smith'. Dorothy Ward was a principal boy in pantomime who kept a fine appearance right into old age and sings 'I want a girl' (presumably her pantomime success). Jay Laurier contributes a good 'And it was' which I'd not heard previously. Others in the programme are Billy Merson, Margaret Cooper, Harry Weldon, Gertie Gitana, Lily Morris, Norah Blaney and Albert Chevalier.

If you feel that some of the less audible songs do not bear hearing so repeatedly as others, the 'programming' facility of the compact disc player is the solution. Never was it easier!!!

In this set, (each CD available separately), there is a total of 75 songs by top line artists. Even so, it is by no means definitive and one hopes that more CDs in the series will appear. Quite apart from rarity nowadays, there were some good singable songs during the life of Music Hall which stand entertainingly on their own without requiring any link with terms such as "social history", though they were created in a world now disappeared. Present day artists like Cosmotheke, some 'folk' singers and others still present Music Hall songs with success to delighted audiences. I've been a fan of Music Hall most of my life, and recommend this set most highly for as well as firm favourites there are artists always missed from sets compiled by firms not troubling to enlist support from an expert in the subject — in this case Tony Barker, who has written the notes too.

Pearl — GEMM CD 9475 (75 min. 27"), GEMM CD 9476 (8 min. 42"), GEMM CD 9477 (78 min. 03").

BILL RICHES' TRIP TO USA AND CANADA

In 1991, one of our Australian members, Bill Riches, was able to spend three months in the United States and Canada and set out below are some points of interest relating to his trip which other members may enjoy reading. Later in the year Bill and his daughter Linda enjoyed two weeks travelling round New Zealand in a campervan and it was nice to catch up with them for a few hours whilst they were in Christchurch. Dick Hills and Robert Sleeman were also able to meet with them.

"Arrived New York Saturday 4th May. So many small shops selling everything. Visited "Waves" on 13th Street and bought Edison D.D. reproducer US\$85, Bing Crosby record cleaner US\$25 and Berliner needle tin US\$8 and 1 Columbia cylinder record US\$11 plus 8.25% tax — not cheap. To "Annex" Antiques and Flea Market, Ave of Americas and 26th St — lots of antiques etc. No 'sound' items....

"Left on 'Cosmos' coach tour S.E. Canada including Quebec and suburb St. Anne-de-Baupre and the 'Musee Du Phonographic A Cylinderes" — however was closed. Peered through windows and looked very interesting — just my luck. Skipping along to New Orleans ... one street filled with antique shops, one after another — possible 25-30 shops but filled with expensive porcelains, furniture, etc., but again, no sound machines or our collectibles; so disappointing.

"On to St. Louis, great, like New Orleans — so much of interest. One antique shop 'Victoria Village Antiques' — full of gramophones, music boxes, phonographs, etc., etc. but the price, wow, e.g. Victor 12" turntable music-master horn — wait for it — \$4,850 U.S. plus tax.... Can recommend a visit by any member.

"Moving along, Detroit and Dearborn — Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village — wonderful places and spent a day at each. Rode on 'Edison' steam engine pulling open carriages around the village. Henry Ford provided some buildings but is independent of Ford. Some original, some reconstructed

homes, workshops, etc. and Henry Ford's birthhouse, Wright Bros. cycle shop, Edison Riverhouse and statue, buildings moved from original sites over U.S.A. Ford Museum full of antique aeroplanes ... motor cars, huge engines, household goods, furniture and Edison c. 1896 kinetoscope films; captured a lot on video camera. A must on any itinerary.

"On to Detroit. Smithsonian Institution Air and Space Museum contains so many original aeroplanes, rockets, space vehicles, etc. Washington has much to see. Out to Georgetown (a suburb) of same, old buildings and look into 'Rosebud' Antiques and 'Scavengers' and other antique shops — again, nothing for me — radios, yes, still hoping.

"By train to Clarendon, and "Law's Antique World" 250 selling sites under one roof, air-conditioned of course.

"Back in New York and a call from member Ben Tongue of West Orange inviting me to meet him at Edison Historic Site for 19th May. Due to a mix up I missed my arrival by bus but Mrs Tongue collected me like an abandoned waif from a bus stop and drove me to the site. Missed the 12 noon parade and speech by notaries and had just 30 minutes to photo the insides of the various buildings and buy a few pamphlets, etc. and badges to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the movie per Edison. Enjoyed viewing Ben's collection — such an interesting man and so knowledgeable. Later they drove me to Central Station, New York to board train for commencement of my 25 day Amtrak journey (Washington, Atlanta, New Orleans....)

"By the way Dallas has 250 antique selling sites under one roof (Edison Home Phonograph US\$1745) but again, nil for my collection....

"On my second visit to St. Louis, I videoed the 'Nat chez' rear paddle-wheeler with a "Caliope" played by a negro at console. Great music. There, Union Station, in its heyday, the largest, with 300 trains and 100,000 passengers per day — now a large enclosed entertainment and retail centre — how times do change and very popular it is....

"Gateway Arch, 625ft at top of arch, attained per 'tram' 8 cars of 5 passengers. Inside the stainless steel arch where good views through narrow windows are obtained. Visited Fox Theatre and captured some of its opulence, magnificence and sheer grandeur. What a theatre.

"Could go on, but enough. A truly memorable trip.

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| | EB 209 | Thou, O Lord, Art my Shepherd / Forsake me never |
| | EB 224 | Star of God / Love triumphant |
| | EB 225 | Cry of the fighting forces / Bring back the simple faith |
| | EA3303 | Keep thou in my heart / Blessed are they |
| | EA3957 | Song of Liberty / |
| Prestophone | A55/56 | China sea / Child o' mine |

Also 2 and 4 minute wax cylinders of Peter Dawson and 78 R.P.M.'s of Richard Tucker, Oscar Natzke and Peter Dawson.

Please reply: ALI WILLIAMS, 62 Lansdowne Road, Canley Vale, N.S.W. 2166, Australia.