KENNEL KAPERS KANGAROO LAND

Hello, again!

roll soothes the savage beast in ed to say that it isn't completely life. rock 'n' roll-there is some dinkum

By and large most of Australia's music is second hand, coming mainly from the U.S. and Britain in the form of sheet music, records and entertainers.

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As at home the main portion of This article is going to be on the music comes from radios or popular music, and just as rock 'n' record players via records, those wonderful round disks which, for America we'll see what suits his better or for worse, have made mufancy here in Australia. I am pleas- sic part of everybody's way of

Here in Australia music is enjoyed as everywhere and radio is the main medium of exchange.

Television is coming in very heavy as it did in North Carolina four or five years ago, but the radio stations here are strongly holding their own by use of imaginative programming. (I've had several radio interviews since I've been here, though, which I'm sure have set radio back several years!)

It is interesting to note that here one must have a license for every radio and television set owned. These licenses are renewable each year at a cost of about \$10. and the Government has agents who roam the cities choosing homes at random to check on the occupants' current radio and TV licenses. I think the fine for not having proper licenses is about \$50.

The Australian seem to go for the folk song, the popular music minus the rock 'n' roll, and the semi-classics.

This is the type of music which plays forth wherever we go; and since Jean and I enjoy these types, we are very happy with the listen-

Don't think for a minute, though, that Australia's teen-agers are any different from ours. They "dig" all the latest jazz and then some. (Their favorite here was "Charlie Brown" although I doubt if any of them have read any "Peanuts.")

Rather than have music programs integrating all types of music from "Bird Dog" to "Tenderly," the radio stations wisely have separate programs entirely devoted to the younger set and even go so far as to sponsor rock 'n' roll parties during school lunch hours. This division of music seems to keep everyone happy.

About once a month some of the most famous entertainers in the world fly into Australia for a

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PAIRED UP-Janet Roach and Julia Raynor-as "Salt and Pepper"-will add flavor to "Dine and Dance" at the New Bern High school auditorium on Friday night, June 5. Their dance in the always entertaining Margaret Rose Revue is a twinkle-toe ballet pas de deux.—Photo by Wray Studio.

week's stand.

Since we've been here Stan Freburg, Frank Sinatra, The Diamonds, Johnny Cash, Sammy Davis, sions I would say there is just Jr., and Walt Disney's Mousekateers have performed. Needless to Australian's pride. The equivalent say much of the music for any month is by the artist or artists who will be here, although Frank Sinatra is a continual favorite despite the poor personal impression

One advantage Australia has in selecting their music from the U.S. and Britain is that they can weed out the songs which never amounted to much and just take the established popular songs.

Every now and then we note an editorial or letter to the editor in one of the newspapers decrying the fact that Australia doesn't produce more of her own music and artists.

The fact is that when Australia does produce an artist, he usually leaves here to establish himself in America or Britain. This is often the case where small cities or countries lose the cream of their young crop because their talent could not be put to use or fully appreciated.

I believe several of Australia's songs are making or are due to make a hit at home. These are 'Waltzing Matilda" which is almost the Australian national anthem, and "Click Go The Shears," a song about sheep-shearing which we first heard in New York at a cinerama production featuring the South Sea Island and Australia.

Here, though, is one instance of how Americans can cause a little friction with other parts of the

In "Waltzing Matilda" there are about six instances in which words are either badly mispronounced or simply changed.

There have been several newspa-

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per articles bemoaning the American perversion of Australia's favorite song. Having heard both verenough difference to rankle the

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might be likened to Australians unintentionally singing our national anthem as the "Star Sprinkled Ban-

I told you several weeks ago about the new music bowl here in Melbourne; the Australians have their symphony too. In the field of musical's "My Fair Lady" has been running here for about six months and there doesn't appear to be any end to it.

The Rotary club of South Mel. bourne (my sponsors) have bought out one of the performances in order to sell tickets and raise money for charity.

They are having a banquet meet. ing the day of the performance and guess who has been asked to be the main speaker! Still, I'd say that two tickets to "My Fair Lady" which were literally impossible to obtain in New York, are more than adequate pay for someone who gladly spouts hot air for nothing. I'll close on this sour note and with Jean and I happily humming "With a Little Bit of Luck", we shall write again next week.

Until then, cheerio! Robbie.

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