


With his informal clothes and his guitar William Clauson is an elegant modern version of the old world's troubadours.



The folk-song trail

**WILLIAM CLAUSON IS A HAPPY
WANDERER—IN SEARCH OF OLD TUNES**

A CURLY-HEADED American singer, William Clauson, will soon be on a hunting tour of Australia armed with a guitar. Besides singing for the Australian Broadcasting Commission he will be hunting for hitherto undiscovered Australian folk songs.

Clauson, although a top-class entertainer, thinks of himself rather as a wandering musician, a troubadour.

Being 6ft. tall, with flaxen hair and laughing blue eyes, he looks like one. He follows the twofold art of the ballad—a story in song. As the storyteller, he uses a twinkle in his eyes, a shrug of his shoulders and an up-sweep of his eyebrows; as the singer, he uses a pleasantly intimate voice, and a guitar.

He makes his first appearance in Australia for the A.B.C. at the Syd-

ney Town Hall on September 7, and during his tour will appear in all States. He will be the first A.B.C. overseas celebrity artist to go to Port Moresby, where he will give a performance on October 19 and 21.

CLAUSON hopes to unearth some new Australian folk songs during his stay here. "Australia is a vast country, it must be full of folk songs. I like the excitement of hearing a few words and a few notes of some tune and then tracking them down until they form the complete song," he says.

He will have plenty of opportunity of searching for out-of-the-way songs, as his tour is one of the most extensive of any visiting artist. His capital city appearances, besides Sydney and Moresby, will be Canberra September 23, Melbourne September 28, Brisbane October 12, Perth October 29,

Adelaide November 5 and Hobart November 15.

In between, he will appear at Wollongong, Tamworth, Albury, Wagga, and Broken Hill in N.S.W.; Geelong, Horsham, Shepparton in Victoria; Albany and Geraldton in W.A.; Port Pirie and Port Lincoln in South Australia; Mackay, Townsville, Cairns, Warwick, Toowoomba in Queensland, and Queenstown, Launceston and Burnie in Tasmania. In his itinerary also is King Island, off the north-west tip of Tasmania.

RECENTLY, Clauson spent some time with peasants in Norway and Sweden. "I picked up some wonderful folk songs," he recalls. "I like to get at the heart of them—the people, and the songs."

Not all of his folk-song searches have been in remote places. "Often,"

he says, "people hear I am in town and bring the folk songs to me. Big cities are surprisingly full of them."

London, for example. It has a cosmopolitan population—there are many Irish and they are always good for a song—and it's a good hunting ground. I hope I find places such as Sydney and Melbourne equally productive," he says.

When he is in the big cities, Clauson likes to wander around the back streets and talk and sing, often on a doorstep or in a cafe.

Many people have tried to stop his wanderings. As a child and teenager he appeared in 10 Hollywood films, now is sought there as a singer.

MOST of the romance in his life he has found in his songs and his travels. This year, his wanderings after his Australian tour will take him to Indonesia, Hong Kong and Bali—where he will be a guest of the Prince of Bali for a week.

He is looking forward most to his Australian trip. "I hope," he says, "to collect at least 27 folk songs from Australia and have them recorded for world distribution." ♣