



EYE-LASH MAKE-UP

"Bring me songs says Burl Ives Genial, enormous Burl Ives, America's

greatest ballad singer, who will arrive in Australia this month, wants people to bring him folk songs or ballads to sing.

An audience of 3000 recently heard him in Britain's Royal Festival Hall, where he began his 18 weeks' world tour. Thousands more fans await his arrival in Australia.

HE will give 26 per-settled myself into the largest formances in Australia between May 30 and Technology III and The New York and the May 30 and space at any time in my life. July 14. His wife, Helen, will go with him, but they have left their threeyear-old son, Alexander, in New York.

Burl, who is about six feet tall and weight close on 20st, is one of those rare people—an unreservedly happy person.

"Why shouldn't 1 be?" said Burl. "I came from a sharty town — timerant farmer en-vironment—to being what I al-ways wanted to be, a top ballad

"A fascinatin' thing about hallad singin'," he added, "is that it brings you into touch with ordinary, warm-hearted people wherever you go. And that makes me happy. And that makes me happy. And when I sing to them that makes

me happy, too.
"One of the things I look forward to in Australia is that there will be, I know, a large number of people come and see me with songs for me to sing.

"You can tell Australians I want them to do that. I'm on the look-out for any real in-digenous Australian folk songs, edapted aboriginal songs, or any English folk songs that have been kept alive one way or another.

"Experts try to tell you

"Experts try to tell you that in new countries folk songs have died out.

"Tain't true, they're there if you only look for them.
"I'm workin' on a real dandy arrangement of 'Waltzin' Matilda, which I consider to be one of the greatest folk songs in the world. I hope Australians like it."

The Level live in a beautiful

The Ives' live in a beautiful New York apartment overlook-ing the misty Hudson River, but Burl good-humoredly comcar in it. "Man," he said, when I had

THE IVES FAMILY. Mr. and Mrs. Ives and their son Mexander in their New York flat. Leaving Mexander behind sens the hardest decision the Ives' had to make before leaving for their world tour.

space at any time in my life. And 1 don't see how I ever will, Since Helen and I have been mar-ried we've been into larger apartments. "But we

sooner move than we start collectin' things, and next thing you know there ain't enough room."

He lists the reasons for the

reasons for the cramped space of the Ives home as being—himself, his attractive brunette wife, Helen, his three-year-old son, Alexander, two giant 200th. Great Danes, innumerable cats, a library of 2000 books and as many records, walls covered with large-framed-Breughels, Matisses, and Picason, and humer-lisses, and pricason, and humer-lisses. tisses, and Picassos, and numer-ous tables, perilously overladen with Copenhagen china and precious objets d'art Burl has collected on his global wan-

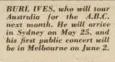
derings.
This list covers only the

his singing at an early age. Folk songs in-terested him most because he

was continually hearing them. Later he found his melodic, throaty style of singing was ideally suited to ballads. "Hard as it's been, I enjoyed every bit of it," he said. "My

folks were poorer than church mice, but they were happy people. In fact, they were so





happy, despite the problems of bringin' up six children on practically no money at all, that they became known as the 'Singin' Ives'."

"And you've got to be happy to sing when you're never any-thin' but down and out."

hoboes in the depressed America of the early '30's.

America of the early '30's.

The hungry, ragged hand angrily demanded something more cheerful, and they got "The Big Rock Candy Mountain," which they loved.

"The Wayfaring Stranger" had a long way to wander before he sang at the White House and was warmly congratulated by the late President

gratulated by the late Presi-dent Roosevelt.

Mr. Roosevelt-told Burl his favorite song was "Home On

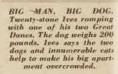
Burl was in Chicago when Roosevelt died. The N.B.C. asked him to sing in the memorial programme for Roosevelt.

He says: "I sang 'Home On the Range.' I choked. It was the toughest job I ever did in

Mrs. Ives, in between run-Aris. Ives, in between run-ming the crowded Ives home, catering for Burl's insatiable appetite, looking after young Alexander, the dogs, and the cats, manages to act as secre-tary and script-writer.

She is looking forward to her Australian visit.

"I have met some Australian women in the past few years, and they were such grand people I felt that if ever I had



the chance to go to Australia

I would take it," she said.

The Ives lead a crowder busy life. They both pile their own plane, which the use for hopping between tow and town on personal appearance tours.

Burl is constantly recording His repertoire of songs, which he carries in his head, contains more than 300 folk songs and traditional ballads.

His recordings for children are bit songs all over the U.S and are now selling in England and other parts of the wor. Twice a year he visits Wastington, where he makes specirecordings of rare folk song for the Congressional Librar

thropologists had to nag him into that, he says, because the didn't trust his fabulous meso-

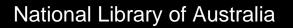
ony and thought he might some day forget them.

Mrs. Ives said that Burl's keenest fan was Alexander, who listened avidly to all of Burl's records.

"Do you ever sing to him?" I asked. Burl shot me a loo of horror.

"Man, don't ever sugge ch a thing," he answere such a thing," he answers are sung by someone else. In he knew I could sing he'd reme ragged in no time

THE AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S WHERLY - May 7, 1973



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