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PREPARED BY: G.H. Cumming

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**ALAN DAVID McGILVRAY, AM, MBE
(1909 - 1996)**

Alan McGillvray was, simply, the most famous cricket broadcaster in the world.

In a tribute to him sports journalist Norman Tasker said that:

'McGilvray's voice was as much a part of Australian summers as the sound of cicadas and screen doors banging in the wind.' ¹

Alan McGillvray, who was always a trifle reticent about his age, was born on 6 December 1909. ² He attended Sydney Grammar School where he captained the first eleven in 1925. His team defeated Melbourne Grammar for the first time in ten years and young 'Mac' was the school hero after scoring 129 not out and taking seven wickets for 32. ³

He went on to play Sheffield Shield cricket and to captain New South Wales and was credited with planning a trip which dismissed Bro. Don Bradman for a duck.

It was not the most popular thing he did as an irate spectator accosted him with:

'You've spoilt my day. I came here to see Bradman make a hundred. I'll never come to the Sydney Cricket Ground again.' ⁴

A team mate, Bro. Ken Gulliver said of McGillvray that he was always a very serious, very studious type of cricketer. ⁵

They were qualities he took to radio when he gave his first description of a Sheffield Shield match in Brisbane in 1934.

In 1938, he broadcast the test matches from England using cablegrams from the ground and the tap of a pencil to produce the sound of bat on ball.

Even allowing for the technology of the time, his voice sounded tinny and monotone and it was only by hard work and training that he developed the style of later years.



ALAN McGILVRAY

