## THE ORDEAL OF CLARA CHUFF

Pinky (who was six) squeezed through the hole in the hedge at the bottom of the garden, there was nothing they liked better than to go right across the field to the railway cutting on the far side and--yes, wait for the trains to go by. That was where they met Mr. Forty-Fifty---a goods engine---and discovered that he could talk. (Trains, he told them, never speak until they're spoken to, and even then not always.) And it was Mr. Forty-Fifty who told them about Miss Clara Chuff. Clara was "just a yard engine in a junction up north," a funny

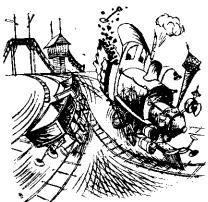
a funny thing little with four little only wheels tucked underneath her and her connecting rods always a bit loose (vou could hear her clanking half a mile away). And she had a long funnel, too. with a funny wire bonnet thing like a round birdcage on

Trucks were the bane of Clara Chuff's life, Trucks (as Mr. Forty-Fifty

WHEN Peter (who was eight) and said) have no sense at all. You've got to be everlasting pulling and pushing them about. With an engine at one end and a brake van at the other, you've got some control over them, but turn them loose in the sidings and they run about all over the place, get lost, hide in the sheds, jump the points, get their brakes out of order. And that was the trouble with Clara Chuff—she had no control whatever. In the end they had her so confused that Henery and Joe Sutcliffe decided something had to be done about her. But when they left her down at the buffer stops they didn't

know the chance they were giving her. . .

The Adventures of Clara Chuff, with Dvina Whitehouse as Clara, will start in the Children's Session from 2YA on Friday. February 12, and later will be heard from other stations. It was written by Harry Harrison and produced for the NZBS by William Austin.



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## Visit to Queensland

WHEN Kathrine Keddell visited the beautiful balmy Australian State of Oueensland, one of the first things to impress her was the number of insects that bit. Only then did she begin to understand what all the nets were for. There were mosquito nets in all colours and sizes—even some embroidered with hearts and flowers, "as if designed for one of Rubens's opulent women."

This and other impressions of her Australian solourn will be broadcast shortly by Miss Keddell—her photograph appears on Page 38—in the Women's Programme from Commercial stations. In a series of three talks entitled Tropical Queensland, she will speak of "Mosquito Nets and Mon-soons," "Houses on Stilts," and "Wild West Towns of Queensland."

Greymouth born. Miss Keddell taught there and in the Wellington district until her retirement a few years ago. Always interested in the theatre, she has lectured on drama for the W.E.A. and is the founder of the Otaki Players. The latter, she says, is a group "which is still going strong after nearly six vears, in spite of the fact that most people said: 'They'll peter out in a vear.' 'She is also the author of numerous essays and articles, and is a member of the P.E.N. and the N.Z. Women Writers and Artists' Society.

Before going abroad, Miss Keddell had travelled the length and breadth of her own country and knows it well, In Queensland she gave several talks on New Zealand topics, two of which were broadcast on an all-Australian network. As relaxation from writing she collects sea shells and studies native trees.

Tropical Queensland will be broadcast in the Women's Hour, beginning from 1ZB on February 12, 2ZB, February 26, 3ZB, March 12, 4ZB, March 26, 2ZA, April 9, and 1XH, April 30.

N.Z. LISTENER, FEBRUARY 5, 1954.

