

Special Broadcasts for Younger Listeners

WHILE the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are travelling about New Zealand in the coming weeks, the Broadcasting Service's younger listeners will be hearing their own special Royal Tour programmes. At 5.15 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week, the children's sessions at all YA and YZ stations will include 10-minute broadcasts about events of the tour in which children will be specially interested. The first of these broadcasts will be on Thursday, December 24.

The organiser of these national children's programmes will be Lesley Farrelly, who normally conducts the children's session from 4YA Dunedin. She will be looking at all the day-to-day news of the tour with an alert eye for that which appeals to the younger folk. Mrs. Farrelly has been at 4YA now for 18 months, but for the period of the tour she'll be working in Wellington to be nearer the centre of all the news that the NZBS will be compiling.

Before going to Dunedin, Mrs. Farrelly spent two years in the Broadcasts to Schools Department in Wellington. Before that again she taught music, English and social studies at a district high school. In addition to this she attended university lectures and music lessons, with the result that she holds the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and is a Licentiate of the Royal Schools of Music. Organising children's sessions, she says, is fun. Children like taking part in the programmes so much that their enjoyment is infectious. She regards the programmes as first and foremost for entertainment, but finds that many features which could be considered educational are enjoyed as much as the others. There is a fortnightly "Information Bureau," for instance, where



Lesley Farrelly

children from various schools come to the studio with a question to ask whose answer they really want to know. There is a panel of adults to answer the posers.

Each day's children's sessions, says Mrs. Farrelly are planned to provide something for the very small listener, followed by something for the older ones. The most popular entertainment with the tiny tots is still nursery rhymes, so each month there is a nursery rhyme request session in the children's programme. For the older children there are such programmes as "Junior News-reel," which may include interviews with visiting children from overseas, a visit to a minesweeper, an orchard or a newspaper office.

Outside of her job preparing the children's sessions, Mrs. Farrelly leads the life of a busy housewife. She enjoys cooking, but finds little time for her interests, the piano, tennis and golf.

Christmas Play

Following the first of the Royal Tour programmes, on Christmas Eve, the YA and YZ stations will broadcast a special Christmas play for children. This will be heard at approximately 5.20 p.m. Written by Antonia Ridge, the play is entitled *One Christmas Eve*, and deals with the Christmas Eve activities of a shepherd boy, Benoit, a wolf named Ysengrin, and a very intelligent lamb. Together they pit themselves against Tibert, who is a deep-dyed villain and proud of it. The story is told by a juggler called Pierre-Paul of Carcassonne, who lived long, long ago, in the sunny south of France. On all the warm days of the year Pierre-Paul wanders from market place to market place, playing his flute, singing his ballads, juggling with apples, and turning double somersaults—a dozen merry tricks to make people laugh and throw him an honest penny. But when the winds blow cold and sharp, Pierre-Paul of Carcassonne pulls his tattered cloak about him and trudges from farm to farm, beating his drum and offering a story in return for a bed and a bite to eat. *One Christmas Eve* is his extra special story for Christmas time.



BANDMASTER W. H. CRAVEN (right) hands over 12B's Brass Band session to Lloyd Thorne, who was until recently compère of 3ZE's "Rotunda Roundabout"

N.Z. LISTENER, DECEMBER 11, 1953.

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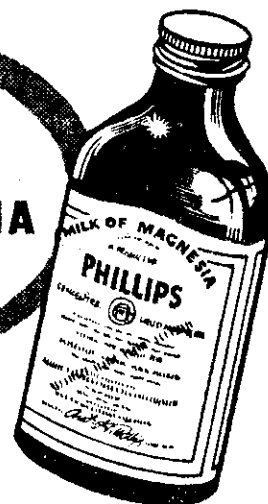
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