

Charles Laughton To Read Well-Loved Christmas Poem

"A Visit From St. Nicholas" Set For 8:30 P. M. Friday; "Gang Busters" Will Trail Band Robbers To Lair

Charles Laughton will read one of the best-loved of all Christmas poems on Three Ring Time Friday at 8:30 p. m. over WJZ. Clement C. Moore's "A Visit from St. Nicholas" which is better known by its opening line, "Twas the Night Before Christmas"

Moore, who died in 1863, was for many years professor of Biblical learning in the General Theological Seminary in New York. The ground on which the seminary stands, indeed, was his gift. "A Visit From St. Nicholas" was one of a collection of poems which Moore published in 1811.

He had written it for his children in 1822 and it first appeared anonymously, without his knowledge, in The Troy Sentinel Dec. 23, 1823.

How one of Maryland's most daring bank robbers was able to hide his criminal exploits from police by operating two radio stores as a front of respectable living will be presented as the "Gang Busters" case over WJZ Friday, at 9:00 p. m. In a special interview the program will present the observations of the lawyer who acted as his defense counsel after F. B. I. agents finally trapped him.

"Christmas On The Stage," will be the theme of the Al Peatee program Friday, 7:30 p. m. via WABC when the Sons of Pioneers do a guest turn on the program to carry out the Peatee fantasy of celebrating Christmas in western fashion. The Peatee Gang will present the sketch, complete with songs by Margaret Lenhart and music by Lou Brung's orchestra. Al Peatee will be assisted by comedians Andy Devine, Artie Auerbach, Wen Niles and others.

"The Lady Vanishes," four-star English picture which had Margaret Lockwood and Paul Lukas in leading roles, will be heard on Charles Martin's "Playhouse" over WABC Friday, at 9 p. m., with Flora Robson, stage and screen luminary, heading the cast. It is a compelling mystery story. Background music will be by Roy Block's 21 piece orchestra, with Johnny the Call Boy and Nelson Case representing the sponsor.

Highlight of the Shirley Temple series of four broadcasts will be

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

Eastern Standard P. M.—Subtract One Hour for CST., 2 Hrs. for MT.

the pre-Christmas program Friday, at 10:00 p. m. over WABC when Lionel Barrymore, whose Yuletide renditions of "Scrooge" are a radio tradition, deviates from his schedule long enough to do a modern Christmas story with Shirley as his leading woman. The story, titled "Christmas For Two," is built around a gruff headmaster in a school attended by the child star.

Joseph E. Davies, the American millionaire who made a big hit in Soviet Russia, as ambassador from the United States, will be up for questioning by Clifford Fadiman as a guest expert on the "Information Please" program of Friday.

Jan Struther, English novelist, will be the other guest, serving with the regulars, John Kieran and Franklin P. Adams, in the WEAF broadcast at 8:30 p. m. It will be her seventh round.

KILLED BY AUTO

HAMILTON, O., Dec. 19 (AP)—Struck by an automobile near here, John F. Baker, 71, of Berea, Ky., died of his injuries.

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