

Editorial Page

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1963

Traditional 'Messiah' Grows More Popular

The Roseburg Choral Society last Sunday made the 14th annual presentation of Handel's "Messiah." The auditorium at the County Fairgrounds was packed for this event, a feature of the Christmas season.

The "Messiah" is known the world over as one of the finest of religious oratorios — a sermon set to music.

Roseburg musicians have chosen it for annual presentation and to the concert more than 100 singers and the musicians of the Roseburg Symphony Orchestra devote many weeks of preparation. Choirs from the city's churches form the nucleus of the singing group.

Originally directed by Clarence Trued, noted Roseburg director and composer, the concert in late years has been under the direction of Robert Robins, music director in the Roseburg school system. Adding more sparkle was the orchestra directed by Mike Norrell and a fine list of soloists.

Each year the size of the audience has grown until it appears that there will be a lack of audience space in another year unless more seats can be provided somewhere.

Certainly Roseburg has a right to be very proud of this annual participation in observance of the Christmas season. Furthermore all residents of the area, and particularly the city's music lovers, should be grateful to those who participate and appreciate of the excellence with which the local musicians, their guests and directors present this impressive oratorio.

As one spokesman puts it, "this is a big thing for a community this size. I was very impressed."

The history of the "Messiah" and its author is interestingly told in a release from the World Book Encyclopedia.

The word "oratorio," it is stated, which is a musical composition using soloists, chorus and orchestra, is named after the Oratory, or mission hall, in Rome, where sacred musical performances were held in the 1500's.

In the "Messiah," Handel set to music actual quotations from the Scriptures.

World Book Encyclopedia tells

how it happened that he wrote this great religious work:

"Of all the music associated with Christmas, perhaps no composition so well embodies the spirit of the holiday as Handel's "Messiah." The great oratorio has enthralled countless audiences. It has been said to have brought more money for charity than any other single piece of music. And it marked a rebirth for its composer.

"George Frederick Handel was virtually a has-been in 1741. London had grown tired of his Italian operas and of him. More than once he had barely missed being thrown into debtors' prison, and his health was beginning to fail.

"Then came a commission from the lord lieutenant of Ireland and the governors of three charitable institutions for Handel to conduct a series of charity concerts. He began to compose a new piece for the tour.

"Handel was not an especially religious man, but something seemed to possess him as he worked. For some 23 days he kept to his study, refusing to see any visitors, leaving his food untouched and working through the night. Now he played the harpsichord, now he sang, then back to the writing. His servants thought he was going mad. Often they found him in tears. When he finished the "Hallelujah Chorus," he declared, "I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God himself."

"On April 13, 1742, 700 people crowded into a Dublin music hall for the premiere of "Messiah." It was a resounding success.

"At the first English performance a year later, King George II was so overwhelmed by the "Hallelujah Chorus" that he rose from his seat and stood throughout the section. The audience, of course, followed the example of their king, and so began a custom which survives to our day.

"Despite the king's appreciation, however, London was not ready to accept Handel and the concert failed. It was not until Handel began directing annual benefit performances of "Messiah" at the London Foundling Hospital in the 1750's that his adopted countrymen came to recognize it as a masterpiece, and once again gave him their acclaim."

"You Mean You Don't Believe in Santa Claus?"



News Analysis



By ROBERT C. RUARK

My God, what a wonderful country it really is, and you have to spend a lot of time abroad to fully appreciate it. I suppose it is why we never lose wars, even when we go in with much too little, much too late.

A crackpot guns down the most important man in the world, and what happens? Does the whole structure crumble and collapse? Is there panic in the streets, revolution, economic disaster?

Not at all. In 98 minutes after the President is officially dead, the Vice-President is sworn in, and the dead President's wife stands at his side. Cabinet members are recalled from distant trips and the machinery of democracy grinds on, uninterrupted by tears. Lyndon Johnson brings his own rocking chair to the White House. The stock market recovers from a dip that was only compounded of momentary panic, and the stepped-up defense system relaxes.

System Credited
This is where we stand supreme in the world today. I think. The System. This is why we have won the wars and have made a valiant effort to win the peace. The System.

No man is really vital to it. His office killed Franklin Roosevelt as surely as an assassin's bullet, and a little man nobody really knew stepped bravely into the breach. The indispensable President was dead, and Harry S. Truman of Independence, the little sharpie who was not really included in the backroom conversation of the White House, took over.

Time will show that Truman was one of our more important Presidents, from a standing start of nothing-minus. The System continued. We dropped the bomb and won the war and then produced the doctrines which retrieved Western Europe from disaster, held the

Eastern enemy at least at bay, and all on account of the free democratic process—The System.

House Collapses

In other lands when the leaders are killed, or die in harness, the whole government house collapses. In our land people herd together in the crisis, partisan battles are forgotten, and the people flock to one another's assistance—much as the British rallied during the blitz, with Hitler a scant 30 miles away across the channel.

No dictatorship, no junta, no dynasty of personal power will ever replace or battle for practicality with our system, which is based on the old contention that you can't cheat an honest man, and that somebody has to run the store.

We have all been proud of Mrs. Kennedy. I am personally extra proud of Mrs. Johnson for her magnificently female statement that she couldn't alleviate Mrs. Kennedy's personal anguish, but at least she could allow the former First Lady limitless time to move out.

Act is Tough
Mrs. Johnson moves in behind a glamor girl, and Lyndon Johnson moves in behind a martyr. That is a very tough act to follow. But I will bet you that Lyndon Johnson makes a fine President for history to say, and I will also bet you that Lady Bird makes a fine help-met. This is The System again. In their own fashion, Bess and Mamie proved up high as adjuncts to their mates. They

stayed quietly at home, in Blair House and at the White House, and let the men run the country.

We breed magnificent people in our land. We breed people who come when they're called. We breed a Jackie Kennedy, who can smile with hope. We breed a Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, who became a stateslady in her own right and time after the husband is dead. We certainly breed a Lyndon Johnson, who will be a pridesful President, and his own man, because he went heartfully to work before the wailing was over.

We are a magnificent nation, because we own the copyright on The System. It was started by the Founding Fathers. It has been perpetuated by the folk who caught up the torch. Kennedy died as Lincoln died, to make The System work. President Johnson, and Mrs. Johnson, are but an extension of what nobody else has got.

The Russians and the Chinese will never know our personal wealth. Only the families mourn the deaths of dictators. The entire world grieves for our young man and his family, and hopes for the best for LBJ and Mrs. LBJ. It's a staggering thing to encounter in a cynical time.

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CLAIMS DOG RECORD

LOUGHTON, England (UPI)—Frank Hollis claimed recently that his St. Bernard, Sir Baron, is the biggest dog on earth. Sir Baron, he said, stands 37 inches high, is six feet long and weighs 224 pounds.

In Days Gone By

Taken from the files of The News-Review

40 YEARS AGO Dec. 11, 1923

Every vote cast in Douglas County at the special election on a proposed state income tax measure cost the county about 70 cents, it was reported today. So far, the county has spent \$2,421.09 for the special election. The tax measure carried in the county by 393 votes, 1,962 to 1,569.

Postmaster Healine asked today that businesses space their mailings during the day and that people properly pack their parcels so mailing can be expedited from an exceedingly busy post office in Roseburg.

The derrick for the North Deer Creek oil well is ready for the work to start on drilling. The proposed well is located on North Deer Creek.

20 YEARS AGO Dec. 11, 1938

A high German source said today the problem of emigration of Jews will probably be solved by allowing one wealthy and four impoverished Jews to leave the country as enough German exports are sold abroad to yield foreign exchange to meet the costs of their emigration.

Charles Boyer, Sigrid Gurie and Hedy Lamarr are starring in "Algiers" at the Indian Theatre.

The Association of Oregon

THE LIGHTER SIDE:



Phantom Artist Hits West Home

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Being the father of a child prodigy is no bed of roses as Dr. Suphi Baykam of Ankara, Turkey, and I can readily attest.

According to a newspaper story I saw this week, an exhibition of paintings and drawings by Dr. Baykam's 6-year-old son Bedri has been "producing gasps of admiration in European art circles."

The exhibition attracted 100,000 people its first three weeks. Viewers were said to "find it difficult to believe that a youngster is capable of such mature art."

Young Bedri, the story continued, "knows nothing of the artistic stir" his works have created because his father does not want the boy treated as a child prodigy. I think I know just how Dr. Baykam feels.

It so happens that my own son, who recently celebrated his second birthday, also has an extraordinary aptitude for the graphic arts. Believe me, it presents a problem.

Thus far, we haven't exhibited any of his work outside the family, but it has certainly produced gasps from his mother and me.

We find it difficult to believe that anyone so young is capable of creating such a big mess.

Unlike Bedri, who works with water colors and pencils, my son uses a wide range of materials. Crayons, ballpoint pens, eyebrow pencils and lipstick are among his favorite media.

And, again in contrast to Bedri, who sketches on paper, my son specializes in murals. In the past six weeks, he has redecorated our living room, kitchen, hallway and middle bedroom.

There also is a marked difference in style. Bedri is a representational painter with a penchant for portraits and sketches of cowboys. My son creates neo-expressionistic abstractions.

Dr. Baykam was quoted as saying that Bedri sometimes "does not want to eat or sleep for two days and night, but continues painting all the time." This is the same sort of dedication my son has exhibited. He has continued painting despite the combined surveillance of his father, mother, grandfather and two older sisters.

"The phantom muralist strikes again" is our watchword.

A lot of art lovers have tried to purchase Bedri's work, but his father has thus far refused to part with any of it. I couldn't part with my son's paintings either. They won't come off the walls.



The Editor's Corner

By Charles V. Stanton

Alternate Site Suggested For Proposed Dunes Park

The plan to create a National Park in Oregon's so-called sand dunes area seems to have hit a snag in the U. S. Senate.

Reports are that five members of the Senate Interior Committee have voiced opposition to the condemnation feature of the proposed bill. It is possible that their opposition, coupled with resistance normally expected in a project of this nature, could result in defeat of the project.

The plan for a national park on the Oregon seashore is very popular with many Oregon residents. On the other hand the location now proposed seems to me to leave much to be desired. Yet, in my opinion, there is a "natural" location for a national park in Oregon and, if properly considered, probably could be adopted with virtually no opposition.

I have expressed the opinion on numerous occasions that the site selected for a Sand Dunes National Park in Oregon was a poor choice. I have said that the late Sen. Neuberger, who initiated the plan, had in mind only a political weapon and that he had no real plan to push the project through to completion once it had served its political purpose.

But his tragic death brought about a great deal of sentiment that the name of this talented man be honored through adoption of his project and that his name be applied to the park. His widow, Maurine, named to fill out his unexpired term, later elected in her own right, has, as could well be expected, pushed the park plan. She has been aided because of widespread sympathy.

Replying to my complaint that the Neuberger plan was a political maneuver, supporters of the project say it is a good one and should be adopted regardless of any political motivation.

But the original plan has been thoroughly emasculated. The grandiose scheme proposed by the late Sen. Neuberger would have embraced a large area, would have taken in much private land, would have included the fresh water lakes, and would have resulted in relocation of the coast highway. The cost to the federal government would have been enormous. And all for one of the most remote sections of our coastline.

Yet this area holds promise

Hudson's Bay and Northwest Fur companies; Fort Stevens, the defensive facility built many years ago; the huge development recently made near the river's mouth by the Oregon Game Commission; the Camp Clatsop area, now used by the State of Oregon National Guard for training purposes.

The area contains large acreage suitable for camps, picnic grounds, general outdoor recreation, research, and other such factors.

Surrounding such a park would be a huge sports fishery in the Columbia itself and at nearby Tillamook Bay and the various streams of the region, noted for winter steelhead fishing.

It seems to me that, before the national park proposal is lost entirely because of probable controversy, we should give much thought to a change to a more advantageous and less controversial and costly site, while, at the same time, retaining the name of the late senator to apply to the project.

To date, I believe, the advantages offered by the Columbia site have been neglected largely because of a determination to adopt as a park the area originally named by Neuberger, despite the possibility that he had no more serious motive than the embarrassment of rumored political opponents.

Tax Revenues Show Increase

SALEM (UPI)—Tax revenues totaled \$47,357,473 for the first five months of the 1963-64 fiscal year, a gain of 5.9 per cent over the \$44,718,477 received in the comparable period of the previous fiscal year, the State Tax Commission announced recently.

The increase is about what was anticipated.

Individual income taxpayers are responsible for the gain in general fund taxes, as revenues from corporations are trailing last year's figures, the commission said.

Personal income tax collections through Nov. 30 totaled \$43,294,771, an increase of 6.6 per cent over 1962-63. Corporate receipts of \$2,504,482, were 3.9 per cent below collections for the same period last year.

SEEK CITY LIFE

BUDAPEST (UPI)—The Hungarian government said recently that 70 per cent of the young doctors it sent out to country practices two years ago have returned to Budapest. The other 30 per cent come to the capital up to three times a week to visit, it complained.

The Almanac

By United Press International
Today is Wednesday, Dec. 11, the 345th day of 1963 with 20 to follow.

The moon is approaching its new phase.

The evening stars are Jupiter, Saturn and Venus.

On this day in history:

In 1816, Indiana became the 19th state to be admitted into the Union.

In 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt announced he would not be a candidate for another term in the White House.

In 1936, King Edward VIII abdicated the throne so he could marry an American divorcee, Wallis Warfield Simpson.

In 1941, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States and Congress announced a few hours later a state of war exists between the United States, Germany and Italy.

A thought for the day—American historian Henry Brooks Adams said, "Knowledge of human nature is the beginning and end of political education."

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