

# G-Men hold symphony seats

Bach, Beethoven, and even General Grant would be proud to be sitting in the audience when the Portland Junior Symphony holds its first evening concert of the 45th season on December 7 at 8 p.m.

Of the 100 members of the symphony, ranging in age from 12-20, 25 are Grant students or graduates.

"We've always been well represented," stated Eugene Kaza, music department chairman. "Many members have gone on to become professionals or play in the Portland Symphony Orchestra and others."

Members of the Junior Symphony are Kathleen Carrol, Regan Crowley, Chris Earl, James Eoff, Stacia Colby, Mary Ann Rees, Mary Ruth Storer, Dan Ellis, and John and Paul Weller.

Unless the students are in school orchestras they attend a two-year preparatory orchestra. They are given auditions and chosen according to a seating arrangement.

"They have to pass a pretty rigid test," commented Mr. Kaza. "They have to be much better than average players."

Conductor for the past 14 years, Jacob Avsholomov, is on a sabbatical leave in Europe this year. Norman Leyden, founder and conductor of the Westchester Youth Symphony, will be the visiting conductor for the season.

"He's younger for one thing,"

confirmed Regan Crowley, of Mr. Leyden. "He seems more free and unrestricted, but they're both good conductors."

Chris Earl, who is eighth position, first violinist in the symphony, explained that the violins practice from 5:30 to 8:15 every Saturday night, and from 6:30 to 8:15 on Wednesday with the full orchestra.

"It's fun, but of course, it does take a lot of time," commented Christ. "This is my second year in the symphony. I think it's a great symphony to play in," he added.

Playing in the symphony re-

quires talent and time. In addition to practices with the rest of the symphony, the students practice on their own.

"I practice at home about two hours a day," asserted Regan. "I have to cut out a lot of other things I would usually do during that time."

Regan explained that each year you are given an audition and they seat you according to this, and your past record. "This is my fifth year in the symphony, and the auditions are always gruelling," assured Regan. "You never get over that," she admitted.

## Tom Turkey relays preparation of countrymen for Thanksgiving

by Marlene Feves

Hey! Wait a minute! Before you take that first bite of turkey which will take you about eight seconds to chew and 45 minutes to an hour to digest, why not give some thought to all the work that went into raising and processing it before your mother purchased and prepared it!

"Raising and processing turkeys is not as easy as people think, if they even think about it at all," commented Thomas T. Turkey, a former resident of a Medford turkey-growing farm.

"Most turkeys, like me, begin life after spending 28 days in a shell. Most hens lay about 70 eggs per season, but only about 35 hatch into young poults.

"After hatching, we're graded and kept in about 100-degree warm pens until our feathers are developed," Tom continued to gobble.

"We are then taken to a range until we reach about 14 months of age after spending from 5 to 6 weeks in our well-heated pen."

According to Tom, turkey ranges are penned fields which spread over about five acres and contain about 3,000 poults.

"One thing I can't stand," complained Tom, "is people who think turkeys are stupid, unclean birds. We turkeys cannot stand dirt and must live on clean fields, drinking only sterilized water and eating pre-manufactured pellets. Otherwise we'll die," he admitted.

When Tom turkeys reach

about 23 pounds, and hens reach about 14 pounds, they are shipped to the processor to be prepared for market.

After being unloaded from the shipping trucks, the turkeys are hung by their feet on a conveyor belt which they do not leave until they reach one of the final washing tanks.

An electric shock is then shot through the jugular vein of the turkey, which kills it. Next the conveyor belt dips the bird into extremely hot water which loosens the feathers.

From the tub, the belt moves the turkeys to an automatic feather picker. The picker consists of mechanical fingers on a rod which reach both sides of the turkey, and removes all feathers from 8 or 9 birds at a time.

After being plucked, the birds move to the eviscerating room where their inner organs as well as the head are removed.

Next the turkeys are taken off the conveyor belts and soaked in tubs of ice water for 24 hours. From the tanks, the birds are placed in plastic bags and placed in a freezer where they await being boxed, trucked and shipped to market.

"We really have to go through a lot to get ourselves ready for Thanksgiving," gobbled Tom, "but it's all worth it. After all, what would Thanksgiving be without us?"



LITTLE GENERALS: Scott Walker, Becky Connolly, Leanne Perman, and Becky Sawyer work busily to finish their "paste down" turkey pictures for Thanksgiving in Mrs. Leona Pra-sifca's first and second grade class.

## Faculty reveals secrets of mysterious dark past

by Debbie Liesch

Would you believe that Dr. Malo was the assistant football coach while teaching math and Senior Social Studies at Hills-boro High?

"An Evening with Chuck and Betty Foster" was the title of a T.V. show in the City of Portland that used films taken the same day in the first local news broadcast. Mr. Foster wrote and edited the news and Mrs. Foster took all the films used on the show. Six years later Betty Foster quit to teach drama classes here at Grant.

Mrs. Suzzane Mayr, who is presently a Russian teacher, worked as a translator for the

German and Russian languages. She explained that she has translated everything from manuscripts to grandfathers' birth certificates.


Mayor Terry Schrunk will gain a new son-in-law on December 28, when his daughter, Miss Judy Schrunk, marries Mr. Richard Holmboe. Miss Schrunk is now teaching frosh English and Social Studies.

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