The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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A Solvent Opera

The half-century old "Met," steeped in debt and tradition, may be silent this winter. Music lovers everywhere began chewing their fingernails last week when the directors of the Metropolitan opera announced that rising costs and labor troubles had forced them to cancel plans for the 1948-49 season.

The opera has never been a howling financial success, but usually there was an "angel" willing to dedicate a small fortune to art. A business that depends on the generosity of patrons is not a likely prospect for a labor union looking for a bigger cut of the loot because excess profits are pretty rare in high brow entertainment enterprises. The Met figures it is lucky if it breaks even. The workers figure they can't afford to provide diversion for the carriage trade at the cost of fewer sandwiches in the dinner pail.

Lauritz Melchior has suggested that the government support the opera, as in Vienna, but so far the government's few sallies into art have not met with much encouragement. It is unlikely that workers can be expected to become altruistic and produce art for art's sake. So the only alternative is to make opera a paying proposition.

That is exactly what Billy Rose says he could do. The Broadway showman, night club proprietor and columnist warns that, of course, he would have to streamline the old dowager a bit, but he wouldn't tamper with tradition—much. Just a few changes here and there to make "box office."

. . . Imagine Wagner's "Das Rheingold" spruced up with Billy's wife, Eleanor Holmes the curvaceous swimmer, as one of the Rhine maidens cavorting under water as Alberich of the Nibelungen approaches. She wouldn't have to sing. Or fancy Jimmy Durante as Rigoletto, the court jester, muttering, "Everybody wantsa get in da act" as he opens the bag in the last scene to find the corpse of his daughter. And the chorus could double as a chorus line, now and then, with Billy Rose on stage pitching horseshoes between the acts. . . .

Seriously though, Rose's idea is not without sense. Why should the Metropolitan's annual deficit continue as one of the time-honored traditions? And why should artists depend for livelihood on whimsical characters like the ermine-draped, diamond-studded old lady who hoisted a scrawny, wrinkled leg up on the table for photographers at the opening night last year? Community concerts, radio, records, television and motion pictures have aroused a tremendous interest in good music and drama. Opera—the mating of those two complementary elements—could become as popular in this country as it was in Europe. And what the people want, they will pay for.

The Metropolitan opera might well utilize some of the tricks of the Broadway trade men like Billy Rose have exploited so successfully. Good press agentry and money in the bank need not compromise one whit the quality of musical craftsmanship or dramatic art—in fact, it is conceivable that financially secure workers and management might even do better than the traditional struggling artist.

A Nation Reborn

A nation is being reborn today.

It is Korea, which claims to be the oldest nation in the world—4,280 years of age. Only it is not all of Korea that is coming under its own government, just the southern half which has been under American occupation. Following elections at which Dr. Syngman Rhee was chosen president, the new government will be instituted today. It asserts its claim to jurisdiction over north Korea too, but there Russia is still in control and has set up its local communist authority.

Our own record with respect to Korea is a mixture which calls for praise and for blame. First for the latter, was assent to the division of the country during occupation. First for the former was preserving south Korea and approving a democratic government for it. We have poured in millions of dollars' worth of supplies for the people; but we have made many mistakes in government and our occupying forces have committed many breaches of good conduct.

Korea faces many and grave problems. It suffers from inflation, from an unnatural division which severs economic as well as social ties, and from distressing living conditions among its people. It faces also the pressure from the north for Russia seeks to add Korea to its list of satellite states.

With the setting up of an independent government, the United States probably will decide before long to withdraw its troops unless our relations with the USSR further deteriorate. If we withdraw we still will feel under obligation to lend assistance to this country, reborn after 40 years of oppression by the Japanese and three years of frustration and confusion under joint occupation.

Mrs. Carlson Declared Eligible

David O'Hara, chief of the elections division of the secretary of state's office, has ruled that Mrs. Peggy Carlson, widow of the famed marine commander, Evans Carlson, is eligible to be a candidate of the progressive party in the third congressional district (Multnomah county) though she lives in Clackamas county, in the first district. Senator Tom Mahoney threatens to go to court to prevent her name from going on the ballot.

As far as the U.S. constitution is concerned there is nothing which limits a candidate for congress to residence in the district where he is running. It says:

"No person shall be a representative who shall not have attained the age of twenty-five years, and been seven years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that state in which he shall be chosen."

The state law on the subject after providing for the division of the state into districts, says:

"One representative to the congress of the United States shall be elected in each of the districts before enumerated . . ."

Note the words "elected in" not "elected from". The attorney general found general laws relating to residence of officials in the district they served but held that did not apply to this federal office.

Our recollection of lessons in civil government is that we were taught a citizen of the state would be eligible to serve as representative in congress from any district in the state. As a matter of practical politics, a person's chance of capturing a congressional election in a district other than the one where he is residing would seem to be very slim, although we have a hazy idea that it has been done. In Great Britain, to be sure, members of parliament often are chosen from districts where they do not reside. Thus if a strong party leader was defeated in his home constituency he would be voted in from another constituency where his party had a strong majority. Not so here; we want our representatives to come from our own districts.

Barring court action, Mrs. Carlson's name will go on the ballot. Probably the only effect will be to make easier the re-election of the veteran incumbent, Homer D. Angell. That is probably what Mahoney is worried over.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from Page 1)

Upper California, but that it was probable that a bill would be passed establishing a territorial government in Oregon, with a restriction in it against the existence of slavery in that territory. . . .

Thursday, 10th August, 1848—The senate tonight passed the Oregon territorial bill, with the Missouri Compromise provision in it, by a majority of eleven votes. I hope it may receive the sanction of the house but fear it will not. Congress is in great excitement and confusion on the subject and the importance of settling the question at this session becomes every day more important. . . .

Friday, 11th August, 1848 — I learn that the house of representatives rejected the Missouri Compromise amendment of the senate to the Oregon Territorial bill. This I deeply deplore. I fear that nothing will be done at this session and that the slavery agitation will be kept up in the country. . . .

Saturday, 12th August, 1848—The cabinet met at the usual hour . . . I expressed the opinion, in which all the cabinet concurred, that if the Oregon Territorial bill with the slavery restriction in it passed and was presented to me for my approval and signature, I ought not to withhold it from my signature, and that I could not do so without arraying the country into geographical parties on the slavery question. . . .

Sunday, 13th August, 1848—At breakfast this morning I learned that the flag was flying over the senate chamber, which indicated that the senate was still in session. The senate continued in session all night and until near 10 o'clock this morning, when they passed the Oregon Territorial bill with the restriction of slavery in it. . . . About sunset Senator Calhoun and Mr. Burt of South Carolina called. Mr. Calhoun expressed the opinion strongly that I should veto the bill. I told him that I had made up my mind to sign it. . . .

These extracts from the president's diary of 100 years ago give a White House view of the proceedings in the congress which culminated in the passage of a bill to create Oregon Territory. The day following, August 14, President Polk affixed his signature; but it was not until March 3, 1849 that Gen. Joseph Lane was sworn in as governor at Oregon City and territorial status established for the Oregon country, which then still embraced all of the present states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho and parts of Montana and Wyoming.

Thus, a hundred years ago the persistent efforts of settlers in Oregon to have the sovereignty of the United States extended to cover them was finally achieved. With the institution of territorial government the political future of Oregon was assured. Under the flag of the United States the country has grown and prospered. Three states and parts of two others grace the sisterhood that makes up the Union. On the foundation of this century of government the Oregon country will go forward to even greater achievement in the centuries ahead.

Police Seek Table Samples

Salem police have asked for aid in locating furniture samples supposedly stored somewhere in the city and owned by the Dainty Diner company, San Francisco.

L. Reymenandt, manager of the company, was in Salem Thursday seeking trace of the baby-size tables and chairs stored here by two representatives of his company. He said two salesmen were working this area and left several unpaid bills, then supposedly left the samples at 1801 Court st. There is no such address in Salem.

12 ABOARD MISSING PLANE

GUAM, Friday, Aug. 13 –(AP)– All available planes were called out today to search for a four-engine navy reconnaissance plane missing on a routine weather flight with 12 persons aboard.

Female of the Species, Deadlier than the Male

Newest County Garbage Dump Satisfactory

Complete satisfaction with operation of the north Marion county garbage dump, which will be one year old on September 1, was expressed Thursday by County Judge Grant Murphy, following an inspection tour.

He said operations had proved that such a dump did not prove objectionable to the surrounding vicinity. It was established to eliminate promiscuous dumping along roads.

The court is seeking now to locate a site for a similar dump in the southern section of the county.

Murphy said the 12½ - acre dump, three miles northwest of Woodburn, is in charge of a caretaker for five days each week. It receives about 150 tons of waste per month, which is reduced by burning to about one - fourth in bulk. Considerable salvage has also been made, he said.

First Casualty In Meat Boycott

DALLAS, Tex., Aug. 12 –(AP)– The leader of Dallas' housewives' butcher boycott went to bed today from exhaustion but declared the fight against high meat prices would continue until they were more reasonable.

"We are determined to force meat prices down to reasonable levels," said Mrs. R. D. Vaughn, the 71 - year - old Dallas woman who initiated the butcher boycott.

The boycott was called to start last Monday and continue for a week. Meat sales generally have dropped in Dallas but no major changes in prices have been apparent.

5 KILLED AS B-17 CRASHES

TOPEKA, Kas., Aug. 12 –(AP)– A B-17 plane from the air force base here crashed in a farm yard and burst into flames soon after its takeoff today. Five crew members were killed and two were seriously injured.

Surplus Priority System to End

Last opportunity for eligible veterans and priority holders to exert preference in war surplus sales is being offered this month at two sales in Portland.

The war assets administration had scheduled a concurrent spot-bid sale August 25, 26, 27, and on August 26, a sale of automotive equipment, both at Swan Island.

Items offered include refrigeration units, hardware items, office furniture and supplies, medical and hospital supplies and automotive equipment.

Beugli Family Has Silverton Reunion

FRUITLAND — Mr. and Mrs. George Kleen attended the Beugli family reunion at Silverton park Sunday. Four of Mrs. Kleen's brothers and her four sisters were present.

Norman Beugli of Salem presided at the business meeting and election of officers. Jake Giger was elected president; Virginia Yoder, secretary-treasurer and Cora Schumacher, historian.

More than 100 attended. Oldest member, Lena Beugli Conrad, was not able to be present. One cousin, Helen Fennigan of Ohio, came for the occasion. Others were from Stayton, Sweet Home, Albany, Corvallis, Salem, Woodburn, Hubbard, Canby, Oregon City, Molalla, Liberay, Silverton, Portland, St. Helens, Kelso, Wash., and Longview, Wash.

The clan will meet the second Sunday in August at Silverton park next year.

Former Head Of Silverton Bank Dies at 71

SILVERTON, Aug. 12-(Special) M. Gilbert Gunderson, 71, a former president of the Coolidge and McClaine bank here, died suddenly about 5 o'clock Thursday afternoon in his office. He was talking to a customer at the time.

Gunderson was born in Racine county, Wisconsin, in August, 1877, and was married in 1901 in Minnesota to Helen Paulson, who survives. They came to Silverton in 1907 and he engaged in mercantile work until 1909, when he joined the bank as a clerk.

In 1920 he became cashier and later served as president until 1934. For several years he has maintained an insurance and real estate business. He was prominent in Jersey cattle groups.

Also surviving is a foster daughter, Esther Grisham of San Diego, now visiting here; a sister, Mrs. Dan Dysetter, Minnesota; and a brother, Henry Gunderson, Salem.

Highway Commission Visits Salem on Tour

Members of the state highway commission stopped overnight in Salem on an inspection tour of the area.

Arriving from Agate Beach, the commission will leave at 7:30 a. m. today for Albany on the last leg of the tour. They will go from Albany over the South Santiam highway and return to Portland tonight by way of the North Santiam highway.

Hollywood Group At Picnic Party

EAST SALEM — Hollywood drive family picnic was held Sunday at Paradise Island. Attending were Mr. and Mrs. V. M. LaDue; Mr. and Mrs. Keith LaDue; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Holler and three sons; Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Gibb and two sons; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Gilman and children; Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Proudfit; Mr. and Mrs. Paul Barham; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Fisher; Miss Mary Jean Fisher and Royal Wenig; Melvin Haynen; Mr. and Mrs. L. Beecroft; Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Forgard; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bunn, Harold Curtis and Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Poe of Brush College community. No-host basket dinner was served followed by swimming for the children and horseshoe games for the men.

Pringle Birthday Marked at Party

PRINGLE—Judy Binkley observed her ninth birthday Thursday by having a group of neighbors help her celebrate.

Prizes at games were won by Gary Higginbotham, Bob Wiley, Eleanor Cegler and Georgia Elser. Ice cream, cake and punch were served.

Other guests were Mrs. Arleigh Kendrick and Linda and Laura, Mrs. John Cottrall and Tommy and Billy, Mrs. Charles Klinger and Beverly, Jean and Corrine, Mrs. Leo Elser, Georgia, Leona, Margaret and Darlene, Mrs. M. H. Bedsaul, Chris and Mark, Patty Gray, Eleanor Cegler, Bob and Norma Rae Wiley and Judy Crump.

Liberty Residents Take Trip to Coast

LIBERTY — Making a trip to the coast Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. William Harrison, Beverly, Betty Lou, Jeanette and Billy, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Pearson and Mr. Findea, Ben Herman, Traugott Herman and Lottie Middleton, Alice and Janice Herman of Olympia.

Mr. and Mrs. Sid Van Dyke, Joyce and Judy, Mrs. Zoe Kriz of Bend visited with Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Stevens at Sheridan Sunday.

2 Idaho Men On Probation

Ronald E. Hayes, 4775 Earl ave., and Ezeakiel H. Haynie, Arco, Idaho, were placed on two years' probation Thursday in circuit court when the two pleaded guilty to charges of forgery.

The pair, arrested by the city police officers, admitted passing checks for a total of $80 in the Salem area. They waived indictment after appearing in district court. They agreed to make restitution on the checks.

Checks were passed at Rohland's store, 1983 N. Capitol st., $17; Capitol Auto Parts, 305 N. Liberty st., $26; Saving Center, West Salem, $17; and Vista market on South Commercial, $20.

Taril B. Kleinpell, 653 N. High st., was sentenced to 18 months in the state prison after pleading guilty to larceny of an auto.

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