

# Portland Symphony Will Pay Homage to Father Dominic at Concert on Friday, March 11

By Loretta E. Dehler  
**MT. ANGEL**—When the Portland symphony orchestra, conducted by the world famous Werner Janssen, comes to Mt. Angel Friday night, March 11, to give a memorial concert in honor of Father Dominic Waedenschwiler in the school gymnasium on the hilltop, the town will owe that honor to its most illustrious citizen whose musical genius inspired the Portland conductor to do Mt. Angel this signal honor.

Father Dominic died almost 17 years ago but is still a well-remembered personality to the greater percentage of the town-folks, having been pastor here for 25 years.

Father Dominic's music was a part of the town; he composed music for the church; he composed songs for the school children; he played the organ, led the choir, taught singing to the children in school, conducted the secular quartets, trios, etc.; played the wedding marches and the funeral dirges and in between he was a 24-hour pastor to his flock. He treated them all with the same kind consideration.

Born in Switzerland  
 Father Dominic was born Feb. 21, 1863, in Canton Thurgau, Switzerland, as Paul Waedenschwiler, the youngest of the six children of the village schoolmaster and organist. His father was his first music teacher and later the boy continued his studies at the abbey school of Engelberg.

His family wanted him to make the most of his talents and, despite all the urging, he entered the aged Benedictine monastery at Engelberg in 1883 at the age of 20. He was ordained to the priesthood four years later. The same year, 1887, he was sent to Oregon to help in the newly-established monastery at Mt. Angel.

In 1889 he became the first director of the Mt. Angel seminary and later held the offices of rector of Mt. Angel college and novice master of the seminary.

Sent to Europe in 1906  
 The year 1906 marked an important event in Father Dominic's life. He was sent to Europe to study music at the Berlin conservatory. His teacher was Engelbert Humperdinck, a pupil of Wagner and the composer of the opera, Hansel and Gretel. Father Dominic's "Beautiful Willamette," composed three years earlier, aroused Humperdinck's interest and encouragement and led to the composing of "Call of the West" and "Nature's Morning Hymn." Both were written in Berlin.

He was graduated with honors from the conservatory in 1907 and then toured Europe. For a short period he studied church music on the Isle of Wight under Dom Moqueriau, the founder of Solesmes school of plain chant, and then returned to Mt. Angel.

He was appointed pastor of Mt. Angel in 1912. The beautiful St. Mary's church was completed under his direction and after a few years the present St. Mary's school was built.

Many Music Friends  
 Among Father Dominic's better known works are "Haec Dies," "Missa Solemnis" and "Japanese Lullaby," dedicated and first sung by Madame Schumann-Heink. Father Dominic had many friends among the musical great and Madame Schumann-Heink was a special friend who visited him at Mt. Angel a number of times.

Broken in health by his strenuous activities, he retired to the monastery in 1931 where he died April 1, 1932.

His "Call of the West" was first presented by the Portland Symphony orchestra in Portland in 1914 under George E. Jeffrey and again in 1931 by the Portland Junior symphony. His "Ecce Quam Bonum" was performed in the White House in Washington, D. C. on Christmas eve in 1911.

The concert next Friday will feature the "Call of the West" and include compositions of Geminiani, Bach and Brahms.

The symphony conductor Janssen is a great admirer of the work of Father Dominic and is planning to give a complete Father Dominic concert in Portland next year.

# Public Welfare Hearing Set Tuesday Night

A public hearing on the proposed \$50 minimum old-age pension bill next Tuesday night is expected to draw a large crowd from formal sessions of the Oregon legislature.

The hearing, called by the house committee on social welfare, will start at 7 p. m. in the house of representatives chambers. It will be limited to consideration of the pension bill (house bill 436) and is not expected to include discussion of other measures which would place state liens on pensioners, property, or on the state's income.

An attempt in committee to include in the main bill a provision barring such liens was defeated Saturday.

The measure to be studied, as different from the so-called "Eagles' bill" from which it grew, leaves welfare under the state commission, instead of it being under a single director, and sets the eligibility age for women at 65, instead of 60. The changes were made to insure the continued flow of federal funds, sponsors of the amended measure say.

The bill as now constituted also makes no provision for earnings whatever recipients earn or receive from other sources being deductible from assistance checks.

The measure is more liberal in some other instances, however. It allows a recipient of aid to have \$500 in cash, an insurance policy of up to \$1000 cash value, and a \$1000 car without deductions. The former proposal would have allowed \$250 in cash, \$500 in insurance and a \$750 car.

The house voted Saturday to allow the use of its chambers for the hearing so long as only the galleries were used for spectators. Unauthorized persons will not be allowed at the desks of members.

Referendum on Housing Sought  
 Recommendations that the people be given a chance to vote on whether they want housing financed through state bonds came from the legislative committee on housing Saturday. The committee also proposed laws to encourage building of homes and that cities get state-aid from the state for such purpose.

The committee included Reps. Harvey Wells and Phil Dreyer and Sens. Thomas Mahoney and Jack Lynch, all of Portland, and Rep. Earl McNutt, Eugene.

SALARY BILLS PASS  
 Bills increasing the salaries of county officers of Tillamook, Clatsop, Hood River, Crook and Columbia counties were passed by the house and sent to the senate for further action Saturday.

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# Repeal of Excise Transportation Passes Senate

A memorial asking congress to repeal the wartime federal excise tax on transportation was adopted in the senate Saturday and sent to the house.

It requests repeal of the 15 per cent tax on passenger fares and the 3 per cent levy on freight and shipments.

Sen. Dean Walker, Independent, said the freight tax is placing an undue hardship on western shippers sending goods to eastern markets.

# State Asked To Help with Tideland Fight

Oregon should join other states in opposing the federal government's attempt to take over tidelands, Attorney General George Neuner told the joint legislative ways and means committee Saturday in asking a \$10,000 appropriation to take part in court suits and congressional action.

Rex Kimmell, assistant attorney general, said the federal government was seeking title to tidelands totalling 1519 square miles, extending up the Columbia to Bonneville dam and possibly even including Portland docks. He said Gov. Douglas McKay also wanted to contest the issue.

All lands affected by tides are sought by the federal government, Kimmell said. The attorney general of Texas is leading the move to get congressional action reserving tidelands for the states.

# Vets' Preference Passed in Senate

A measure to give veterans preference in state examinations for departmental promotions as well as in initial employment tests was passed in the senate Saturday and sent to the governor.

The new law repeals the 1945 act which extends a 5 per cent preference to veterans taking examinations for state jobs. The measure is backed by veterans' organizations.

# School Bus Bond Plan Approved

A bill to allow newly formed school districts to issue bonds to buy school buses was passed in the senate Saturday and sent to the governor.

Under the present law new consolidated districts are not permitted to issue special bonds to buy buses until the next regular school district election. Sponsors of the bill said the existing restriction leaves the new districts without necessary transportation facilities.

# Mill Creek Fish Bill Tabled by House Committee

The proposal to set aside Mill Creek fishing for persons under 18 years old was tabled Friday, at least temporarily, by the house game committee.

Members said they had received numerous protests from persons owning property along the creek, and that thus far it had not been determined whether the proposed bill could be made constitutional if it gave rights to property owners and barred everyone else over the age limit. It was deemed possible, too, that property owners would not even be affected by the measure.

Rep. Douglas Yeater, committee member, said Saturday he would attempt to have the legal point decided, and that it was possible the committee later might vote to reconsider its motion tabling the bill.

# Marriage Validation Measure Introduced

A bill to validate illegal marriages entered into by Oregon residents during the past two years was introduced in the senate Saturday.

The measure is the usual corrective act to legalize marriages of persons who married outside of Oregon before their six-month waiting period expired.

State tax commission to take assessors' offices out of politics. The commission believes the offices would be more efficient if assessors owe no political obligations.

If approved in the house the bill would place assessors on the same status as candidates for judgeships. If an assessor received a two-thirds majority in a primary election he would be automatically elected. In case of no majority in the primaries, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes would run in the general election.

Sen. Thomas E. Mahoney, Portland, opposing the measure on the floor, notified the senate he will move for reconsideration of the favorable vote Monday.

# Senate Approves Non-Partisan Vote For Assessors

A bill providing for non-partisan nomination of county tax assessors was approved in the senate Saturday and sent to the house.

The measure is a move by the

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