

CONCERNING MUSIC

By C. A. DAVIDSON (Director of Music for Salem Schools)

Why Some Boys Do not Like Music Sometimes it happens that a boy takes little or no interest in music in the public schools, does not become interested in it in high school, and remains disinterested through life.

A few of the reasons why some boys do not take to music may clear up the situation in the minds of parents who are interested. Perhaps the most frequent cause is "piano lessons." Now I have taught piano and band and orchestra instruments for a number of years, and feel a bond of fellowship with all music teachers, but experience and observation both have taught me that oftentimes a lasting injustice is done the boy by nagging and driving and forcing scales and exercises and "classic" pieces, etc., into him by way of the solitary confinement method of practicing.

Often the subject matter has much to do with the case. If upper grade boys were taught how to put on paper and in colors a big steamship, a railroad train, a beautiful residential or public building, instead of a flower or a bird, they might take more interest in art. And it is the same with music. Songs that are offensive or moralistic are likely to have a repulsive effect on the boys instead of edifying them.

Another thing that often fails with the boys of the class is the old-fashioned singing school syllables, do, re, mi, etc. There is a great movement away from these nowadays. In fact this movement has been gaining momentum for several years. In Portland, Los Angeles and number of cities over the country the syllables are not used and excellent work is being done. Everything can be done without the syllables that can be done with them, and they are a meaningless burden that should be dispensed with, doing which in many cases will place music in a new light before the youngsters.

Bands, orchestras and boys' glee clubs and quartets all help to vitalize the music work. Then added to this comes the example of men who play or sing well in band, orchestra, Apollo club, choir, etc., and thus do a pleasurable and often a remunerative service to the community. Several boys from the local high school have lately joined the musicians union and are making money out of their music. This is as it should be. The school teaches carpentry and machine shop but the boys who take these courses do not go out and build houses and repair automobiles for nothing. There is a big field in music as a vocational subject.

Artisans To Take In New Members Shaping details of the proposed campaign here the next 20 days for members of Capital assembly No. 84, United Artisans, W. L. Garrett and Charles

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F. Bennett, special representatives from the supreme lodge at Portland, were in the city Friday. Monday Mrs. Lillian Vooher, also a special representative and organizer, will arrive in the city and aid in conducting the campaign.

Members of the local lodge, at the meeting Thursday night, discussed staging another dance here in the near future. Plans are also being formed for a picnic which will be attended by all members a week from next Sunday.

Mrs. Earl Simpson, Ruby and Ruth Simpson were initiated into the order at the meeting Thursday night.

Timbers are being hauled into the district east of Meham, Mr. Chappell said Saturday, and in about a week the road to the mining company's properties will be closed while bridges are repaired.

Silver King Mines Are To Be Visited Composing one of the numerous Ellison-White Conservatory of Music Has Engaged HAROLD HENRY Noted American Pianist to conduct a Master Class for Advanced Students In Connection with the Joint Summer Session with the University of Oregon, School of Music at Portland, Or., June 21-July 30, 1920. For full information address Registrar, 654 Everett St., Portland, Oregon.

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