

## Met Stars Miffed Because 1951 Contracts Have Not Offered

New York, Feb. 2 (AP)—Lauritz Melchior feels jilted. Helen Traubel's feelings are hurt. They both say the Metropolitan Opera has done them wrong. It seems that the Met has not yet offered them contracts for next season, and they think that the Met should have done so—or at least made preliminary overtures—by now.

Big, jovial Melchior, the Met's leading Wagnerian tenor for 24 years, is so miffed that he says his days at the Met may be over.

"It's sentimental business," he said. "It is like to love a girl



Patience—His leg stuck in a basement drain at his home in Cleveland, O., 15-month-old Patrick Daley calmly drinks from his bottle while his mother, Mrs. Raymond Daley, comforts him. Firemen released him in a half hour by chipping away the concrete. (AP Wirephoto)

very much and have her leave you. It hurts."

His pained remarks yesterday came just three days after Miss Traubel, top Wagnerian soprano for a decade, disclosed that she was upset by the Metropolitan's attitude.

She said she would "proceed with other plans" in view of the Met's failure to discuss a contract with her.

However, it was reported that negotiations for signing on Miss Traubel were going on between her manager and Met officials. There also were reported plans or re-engaging Kirsten Flagstad, the famed Norwegian soprano who returned to Nazi-held Norway in 1941.

At that time, Miss Traubel stepped into Miss Flagstad's place as the Met's leading Wagnerian soprano.

Melchior said that "unless indicated plans change materially," he would sing his last Metropolitan role tonight.

"I can only assume," he said, "that if I don't miss the swan boat in 'Lohengrin' Thursday night, it will be my goodbye to the Metropolitan Opera public."

(In the opera, Melchior steps on the back of a model swan, and rides it off the stage. In one performance, he made a misstep and failed to get aboard.)

He said Rudolph Bing, the Met's new manager, had not approached him "for customary preliminary discussion," and that Bing should have done this before his press conference today on the Met's plans for the 1950-51 season.

Bing has said contract talks

usually start in February or March.

"I don't think the new manager has shown a great deal of consideration for an honest and faithful worker," Melchior said. "I could understand if my work were not satisfactory, but as long as people don't ask for their money back when I sing, I think I have a right to sing."

He said his plans now are for a heavy concert tour next season. Even if he doesn't get to wind up his 25th anniversary with the Met.

"I still have my friends, my audience and I will still be married to the same girl."

He and Mrs. Melchior will have been married 25 years in May.

"That," he said, "will be one silver anniversary that will be celebrated for sure."

## Nation's New Multi-Billions Housing Program Under Way

By BILL ROSS

Washington, Feb. 2 (AP)—The nation's new multi-billion dollar federal housing and slum clearance programs are getting under way.

Wheels started turning last fall when congress okaved legislation for housing projects for low income families. Another bill was enacted setting up a long-range master plan for slum clearance.

It's taken several months to set up the machinery. Now, however, the gears are meshing.

More and more communities daily are being added to the list of those asking for, or now about to receive, a share of the government aid.

So far the government, under the housing program, has ap-

proved construction of 275,000 new dwelling units during the next two years. The buildings will be largely apartments and all are earmarked for low-priced rentals.

Slum clearance projects have been slower. To date just seven cities have received go-ahead authority to build up to 810,000 low rental dwellings during the

same period. Government funds will be loaned to meet initial expenses—such things as architectural fees, land surveys and the like—of proposed new developments. Latest tabulations show that about \$47,000,000 in loans already have been approved.

Actual construction costs of the housing projects, however, will be financed with money borrowed from private lenders on federally-guaranteed mortgages.

### Cub Pack Meets

Willamina—A Cub pack meeting was held at the Church of Christ. All Cubs and their parents were invited and the program was brief so all who could go to the March of Dimes program.

## Farther the North; Warmer the Weather

Albany—Perhaps the Kodiak, Alaska, Chamber of Commerce should be doing a little advertising around here.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Letts of Salem, visiting here with Mr. and Mrs. Bud Moench, told of receiving a letter from Fire Chief T. W. McArthur of Kodiak describing the warm weather there.

Writing January 20, they had only three windy days thus far in January and no snow at all. The sun has been shining most of the time.

One night the temperature was a sultry 48.

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8 oz. can
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Seaside No. 2 can . . . . .
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- Corn** Golden Bantam 3 33c  
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- 16 Bag Pkg. 18c
- 48 Bag Pkg. 49c

- SOAP SAVINGS**
- Palmolive Soap** 3 reg. 21c Bath size 10c
  - Cashmere Bouquet** 3 Reg. Bars 23c
  - FAB** large pkg. 25c
  - VEL for finer suds** lge. pkg. 25c Giant pkg. 59c
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