

Noted Men's Concert Group Coming to Chautauqua

Remarkably Gifted Musical Organization Is the New York City Concert Quartet Which Will Appear Here as Delightful Chautauqua Feature on the Last Day



Lovers of really good music have a genuine treat in store when the New York City Concert Quartet comes to Chautauqua the last day. This noted organization, composed of four of New York's most gifted vocalists, presents a program of classical and popular numbers, given with an artistry which stamps it as one of America's finest male quartets. The personnel consists of John Besse, first tenor; Albert Liufrio, second tenor and pianist; Artells Dickson, baritone, and Albert Erler, bass. Their program will satisfy the most fastidious, for not only are all solo artists of note in the remarkable. They have exceptionally fine voices and each has enjoyed extensive experience in oratorio and concert fields. The Scotch and negro impersonations of Mr. Dickson will prove an enjoyable feature of the program. He is a southerner, having been born and raised in Louisiana, where he learned some of the negro folk songs he uses on the program. His art, however, is by no means confined to his interpretation of the Scotch and negro songs.

They have a surprisingly varied repertoire and their Chautauqua programs will include some classical numbers of most difficult interpretation, an abundance of popular songs and some very interesting musical character presentations. The solo work will also prove a most enjoyable feature for each is an artist of distinction and real musical attainment. If you love real quartet harmony, furnished by real voices, better be on hand at the Chautauqua when the New York City Concert Quartet comes to town.

Chautauqua An Historical Institution

By MARGARET E. DILL

There is always a history of strenuous achievement in every worth-while result. Snuggled close to its home in the most glorious natural park in our country, the Chautauqua auditorium represents the dream realized of pioneer residents of Ashland with a vision. It represents a sacrifice for coming generations. On that little spot of ground how many children have caught the inspiration for a noble life from the programs given at summer sessions. How much tolerance and kindness has been taught them in the junior play. How much energy and determination for further achievement has been given to the weary man and woman. The neighborly spirit of this section of the state is due to these yearly sessions.

Dr. John Heyl Vincent, a Methodist preacher, and Lewis Miller, a Sunday school idealist, conceived the "Chautauqua Idea." The first assembly was held in 1874 on Chautauqua Lake, N. Y. This system of training for Sunday school teachers has developed into a system of general and universal education. "The Story of Chautauqua," by Jesse Lyman Hurlburt, is one of the most fascinating tales of a dream come true.

Like the mother idea, the Ashland Chautauqua was visioned by a Methodist minister, the Reverend J. S. Smith. G. F. Billings, a Sunday school idealist, assumed the responsibility of president the third session, and for 24 years with untiring enthusiasm, and the assistance of unselfish men and women, made Ashland the educational and religious center of Southern Oregon. In 1892 Rev. Smith organized the assembly with the intention of holding sessions at the Methodist camp meeting grounds near Central Point. After consultation with Dr. Stratton of Portland, and others, the life members decided to build an assembly hall on an eight acre tract in the heart of Ashland. In 1893, the

great panic year, an auditorium 80 feet in diameter, was erected in five days, and the first permanent Chautauqua in Oregon or Washington was initiated. Life memberships and contributions, together with the money for tickets, kept it going. A group of women took over the care of the grounds. The assembly has never tried to be a dividend-paying institution. Its object has been to inspire youth to further study and self-improvement, and to give to the middle-aged and aged the advantages missed in youth.

For 30 years annual sessions have been held. Some of the world's greatest men and women have been on the program. Thousands of Rogue River valley folk have camped in tents and attended the sessions. The automobile, the picture show, the airplane, the radio, have come in for a big share of attention but the Chautauqua continues to grow in interest. Last year there were 9653 in the United States and Canada.

During the war President Wilson said: "The splendid work that the Chautauqua is doing has not lost importance because of war, but rather has gained new opportunities for service. It is an integral part of our national defense."

Colonel Roosevelt said, "There is probably no other one educational influence in the country so fraught with hope to the future of the nation as the Chautauqua movement." President Harding indorses it. William Jennings Bryan and William Howard Taft have done lecture work for Ellison-White.

The session this year comes at an ideal time. The second day is graduating day in our public schools. The Chautauqua number will be given an hour before the school program. Many friends from down the valley can come and camp in the park for a week and attend both.

The relaxation from strenuous school work into a series of entertainment is just the right step out

to keep an attraction in our town spirit that the pioneers built the for the most desirable class of citizens first building—to help give a bit of zenship. The women who go out to joy and uplift and education to the sell tickets for this year's program people who live in our little part of in Ashland are doing it in the same the world.

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