....AROUND HOLLYWOOD

By VIRGINIA MacPHERSON
United Press Correspondent

Hollywood, June 1 —(U.P.)— Mimi Benzell, 26-year-old soprano of the Metropolitan opera, is wowing the night club natives here with her low-down boogie beat — topped off with a couple of ladylike "bumps."

Virginia MacPherson

It's the first time a high-brown prima donna has gone so "hep"—and the customers at the Ambassador's Cocoanut Grove are beginning to think maybe this opera business isn't so doggone dry after all.

What the boys at the dignified Metropolitan think might be something else. Miss Benzell doesn't know.

"I haven't asked them," she said.

Several years ago another curvy soprano—Patrice Munsel—drew the wrath of the Met when she posed out here in a skimpy bare-midriff bathing suit. Opera executives said they didn't think such behavior was in keeping with her standing as "Princess Pat" of the Metropolitan.

"Princess Pat" said she was just doing a little swimming and what else did the executives expect her to wear, for heaven's sake?

Not Undignified

Biss Benzell, who was just voted "The Darling of the Met," says she doesn't think her night club warbling is undignified, either.

And she hasn't consulted the Met about all those movie offers that are flooding in. Miss Benzell looks like a Hedy Lamarr who can sing, too, and the studios are panting to get her name on a contract.

Would she like to be a movie queen?

"Heck, yes," said Miss Benzell.

Would she pose for "cheesecake"?

"Natch," she says.

All of which might make you think the Metropolitan prima donnas now aren't much like the gals of the old days. If Miss Benzell is a sample, they aren't.

She's built like a glamorous beauty and she wears a low-cut gown with the best of 'em.

When she waltzes into the spotlight, the tourists give with the "bravos" before she even opens her pretty mouth. But when she does . . .!

The customers get opera and they like it. Then Miss Benzell swings it—with a boogie beat. From that she switches to nursery rhymes, western ditties, light opera and square dances.

It's at the end of the square dance tunes that she produces her "bumps."

"It's fun," she says. "And I'm making a lot of people like opera that never could stand it before. Did you ever expect to hear 'bravos' in a night club?"

Columbia Ferry Service Stilled

Astoria, June 1—(U.P.)—Trans-Columbia river ferry service between Oregon and Washington was halted here today when three ferry boats were struck by crews in a wage and hour dispute.

Floyd H. Simon, superintendent for the highway commission which supervises the operations of the vessels, said that he crews appeared at the Astoria docks at 6:30 a. m. but that none of the men boarded the vessels.

The next step is up to the state highway commission, he said. The three unions that have called the strike have agreed to send their men back to work if the commission will operate the ferries, taking over the duties of the Astoria Navigation company, which assumes its contract today.

The state highway commission indicated yesterday it would not step into the dispute unless the Astoria Navigation company was unable to fill its contract obligations.

Sams Valley Pre-School Clinic To Be June 5

Sams Valley, June 1 — Sams Valley Parent-Teacher association will hold the annual pre-school and infant clinic Monday, June 5 from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Sams Valley school.

Dr. A. E. Merkel, Jackson county health officer, will be in charge and immunization against smallpox, whooping cough and diphtheria will be offered.

Children from the Table Rock, Beagle and Meadows districts are eligible to attend the clinic.

Those in charge state that it is important for children entering school in September to have this check-up.

Juniors Prepare For Rose Festival

Two rehearsals of Bliss Heine's Juniors will be held Saturday at the armory. These are the last regular Saturday rehearsals before the Juniors leave for the Portland Rose festival, and Heine said it is important for all to attend. Two special rehearsals will be held Monday and Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.

Parents were asked to attend classes Saturday so as to make final plans for the trip. Some intend to drive and plans must be known.

Members will stay at the Portland hotel and will see the grand floral parade from the hotel.

They will report Friday at the Oregon Journal in uniform for a group picture and rehearsal, following which they will be given a treat by the Oregon Journal Juniors and tickets for a show that evening.

Parade Saturday

The Junior parade will be Saturday morning, June 10. As plans now stand they call for a program at Vancouver, Wash., in the afternoon with a stop at Jantzen Beach on the return to Portland.

The Booster club being formed for the Juniors now has a good-sized membership. It is open to all adults who wish to help. Anyone wishing to join may contact Heine or call 3-2594.

Some 5,000 natives of the Ryuku islands now worship at 25 Christian churches of various denominations.

Theatres Hurt by Lack of Patronage

Portland, Ore., June 1—(U.P.)—At least one downtown Portland theater and possibly several others will suspend operations for the summer because of a lack of business, motion picture officials reported today.

Bob Anderson of John Hamrick Theaters, Inc., said the Playhouse theater will close June 8 for an indefinite period.

A. S. Haughey, vice-president of Portland's Central Labor Council and delegate from the Motion Picture Operators' association, told the council that the Star, Capitol and Century theaters will close within the next two weeks.

He said competition from ball games and other summer amusements was too keen and that there was no business.

Columbia, Willamette In Slight Raise

Portland, Ore., June 1—(U.P.)—River stages of the Willamette river at Portland and the Columbia river at Vancouver, Wash., rose slightly yesterday.

The weather bureau, however, said the rivers would remain fairly static for the next three days. After that slight rises were forecast.

The harbor level in Portland was 18.4 feet, a rise of .3 of a foot above the Tuesday reading. Flood stage is 18 feet.

The Columbia at Vancouver was 18.6 feet yesterday, a rise of .5 of a foot over Tuesday. Flood stage at Vancouver is 15 feet.

Dead line Sunday Classified is 9 Noon Saturdays.

Central Point PTA Roundup Scheduled

Central Point, June 1 — Central Point Parent-Teacher association is sponsoring the annual summer roundup for all pre-school children who will start to school in the fall.

The roundup will be held June 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Dr. A. E. Merkel, county health officer, will be in charge. Children from outlying districts will have appointments in the morning and town children in the afternoon.

It is stated that the examination is for all children who will start to school in the fall and especially for children who whose parents will not be able to take them to private physicians for pre-school examinations.

NEW MAGAZINE

Dayton, O., June 1—(U.P.)—The publishers of Newsweek magazine announced today they will issue a new pocket-size magazine entitled, "People Today" beginning next Tuesday. The bi-weekly 10-cent magazine will include articles and features with pictures of personalities in the news.

Woodchopping Revived As Coal Price Goes Up

Wheeling, W. Va. (U.P.)—The art of woodchopping is making a comeback in the Ohio Valley, thanks to the price of coal.

The number of pot-bellied stoves aglow in this area is increasing daily.

"People like myself just can't afford to burn coal in their stoves any more," said Martin Ragan of Virginville, W. Va.

The woodchopping art also has its health benefits, Ragan observed.

In March, 98,551 auto tires and 107,655 tubes were produced in new Japan.

A full size violin constructed of bamboo in place of conventional wood materials is being manufactured in new Japan.

The 350 metric tons of frozen frog legs exported from new Japan in 1949 had a total value of $494,537.

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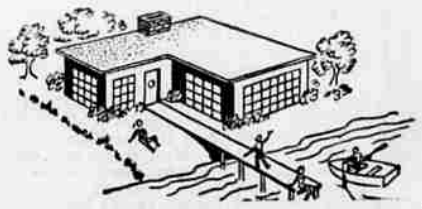

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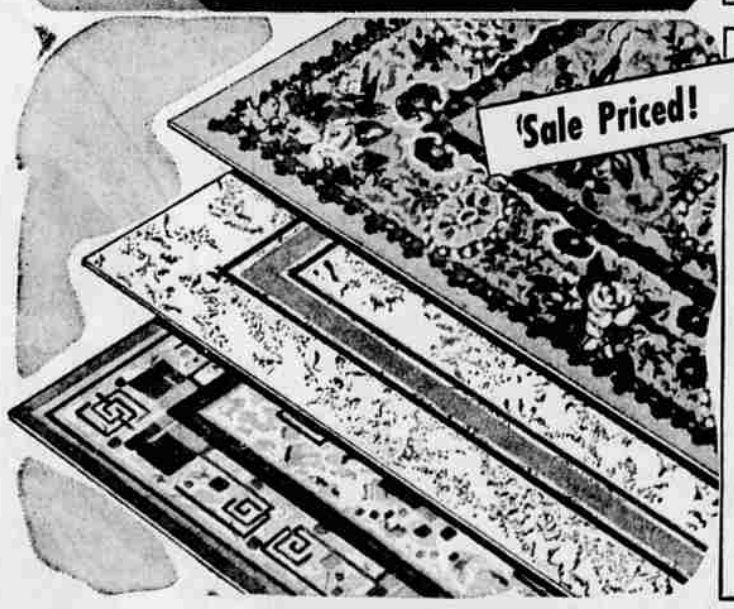

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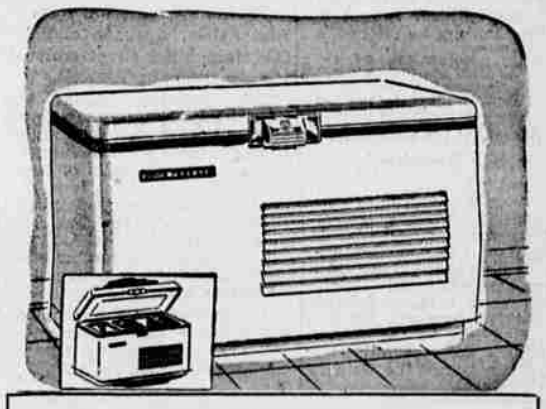

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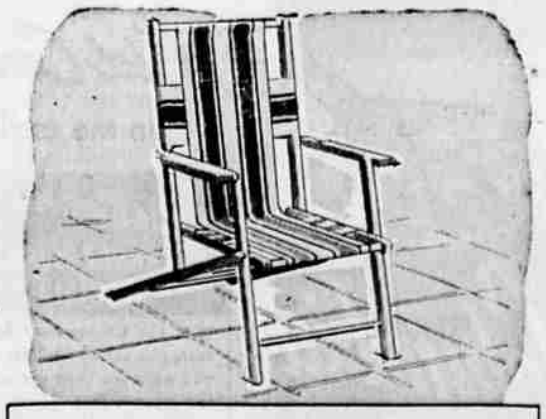

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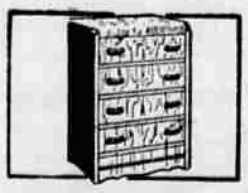

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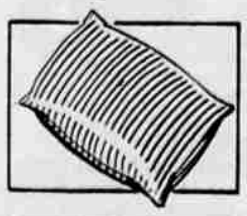

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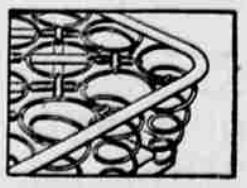

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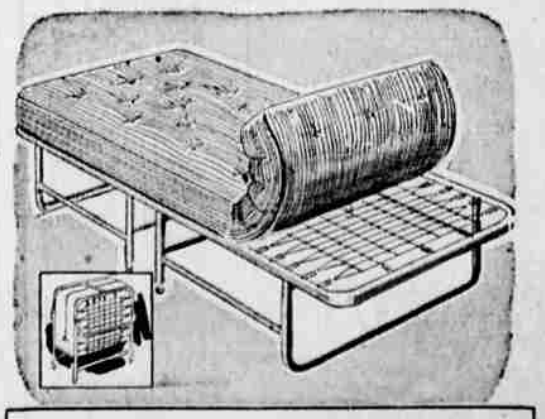

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