

Fritz Kreisler Refuses To Pose With Violin for Portrait on 80th Birthday

New York—(U.P.)—"I'm not a playboy. I'm not a glamorboy," the old man said to the photographer. "Don't make me photogenic. I don't give a damn about looks."

Fritz Kreisler fixed the photographer with his mild hazel eyes. The photographer suggested he pose with violin in hand. It seemed a logical request to make of the man accepted as the greatest violinist of our age, perhaps the greatest ever.

Kreisler laughed. "I don't play any more. No. No violin. It wouldn't mean anything in a picture, no more than if you took a picture of a wrinkle back of my ear."

The man who wrote his first musical composition at the age of six is 80 years old today. His voice is firm, his health good,

his memory startlingly clear, his shock of iron gray hair neat, his mustache well-trimmed. There'll be a big reception honoring him.

Why All the Fuss?

"What a ridiculous thing," he said. "Why all this fuss at 80? Why not 79 or some other year? I don't care a thing about it."

"Too bad it couldn't have come when I was young, when I needed the publicity. My only pleasure in it now is to feel that the Musicians Emergency fund will get something out of it. My wife and I feel that the only thing left for us now is to help someone."

The reception is being given by the fund, of which Kreisler is chairman. Five years ago, when he was 75, there was a dinner in his honor, with messages of greeting from Pope

Pius XII and the President of the United States, among others. At the end, Kreisler rose and said:

"Gentlemen, you have just written my obituary in your speeches. I couldn't possibly be as great as you have said. I will not play in public again."

And he hasn't, except for one radio show he had contracted to do.

How does it feel to be 80? "I feel," Kreisler said, "like an Egyptian soul who sees his mummified corpse going down the river."

But he's still the alert man, popping with ideas, interested in musical development. He is master of eight languages, including classical Greek and Latin, and knows philosophy, mathematics, and history well. He studied medicine in his youth. In 1914, when he was nearing 40 and had won world acclaim as a violinist, a Russian cavalry charge nearly finished him.

He had gone back to fight for his native Austria in World War I.

"I was a messenger and was thrown from my horse," he recalled. "When the Russian came at me, I shot at him with my pistol, probably missed him. His lance went through my left side. Another blow shattered a toe in my left foot. They had to take the toe off later."

What made him succeed as a world acclaimed artist?

"If it were not for my wife, I'd probably be a concert master in Vienna with a pension of \$25 a month. I considered life a mental fight. She considered it a physical fight. She made me go places where I was unknown, and that's what brought me forward, my friend."

Around Hollywood

By ALINE MOSBY
United Press Correspondent



Aline Mosby

Hollywood—(U.P.)—"The 'battle of the \$20,000,000 movies' is being waged full-scale today with three movie-makers rushing to get the same picture on the screen."

"War and Peace," the Russian classic by Leo Tolstoy, has been available to film producers since Thomas Edison polished off the first photoplay, but nobody got around to filming it.

Suddenly three producers decided at virtually the same time to make celluloid versions of the 15-section, 1,370-page novel.

Producer David O. Selznick revealed last summer he had hired Ben Hecht to write a screenplay of "War and Peace" with production scheduled for next year.

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Bills in Legislature

Salem—(U.P.)—A special state fund of \$250,000 to help small communities like Government Camp, Depot Bay and Cannon Beach install sewer disposal systems has been requested here by Deputy State Treasurer Fred Paulus.

He presented to the Joint Ways and Means Committee a proposed bill that would create a fund with which the state itself, rather than private financial institutions, would buy municipal bonds issued by the communities.

Paulus said the need was pressing in several small cities but that their assessed valuation was too small to support bond issues on the open market. But they would be able to sell the bonds to the state, retiring them over 30 to 40 years with user charges, connection charges and assessments similar to bancroft street assessments.

Salem—(U.P.)—Rep. Elmer Deetz predicts that a swarm of consumers and small milk producers would flock to the capital Feb. 9 to oppose a bill which would eliminate all but grade A milk in the state.

A packed committee meeting Monday heard the first explanation of the measure to wipe out grades B and C. John Gale, Molalla, warned such a law would invite widespread "bootlegging" of sub grades of milk from producers who could not afford to comply to grade A standards.

Salem—(U.P.)—Rep. Richard Groener (D-Milwaukie) has introduced a bill in the House authorizing replacement of the Clackamas county court by a county board of commissioners.

Salem—(U.P.)—A bill sponsored by a bi-partisan group of representatives and senators has been introduced in the House to set up a system of automobile inspection in Oregon. If passed, the bill would require inspection of motor vehicles beginning next Jan. 1.

Salem—(U.P.)—The Oregon Senate has passed a measure to allow small loan companies to grant loans up to \$1500 instead of the present limit of \$500.

The bill, introduced at request of the state superintendent of banks, would allow interest of three per cent a month on \$300, two per cent between \$300 and \$500, and 10 per cent a year on any amount over \$500.

Salem—(U.P.)—Rep. Maurine Neuberger (D-Portland) has introduced a bill that would make it unlawful for an employer to withhold or collect anything from wages already paid to an employee. Mrs. Neuberger's bill would set up penalties for "kick-backs" or advance fees for medical examinations as a condition of employment.

Salem—(U.P.)—Hospitals in Oregon would be forced by law to accept any patient for emergency treatment, regardless of race, creed or ability to pay, under terms of a bill introduced in the House by Rep. Norman Howard (D-Portland).

Salem—(U.P.)—Three bills pertaining to roadside advertising has been introduced in the House at the request of the Oregon Roadside Council, the Outdoor Advertising Association of Oregon and the Highway Business Council.

The Roadside Council bill would prohibit advertising signs along public highways and would ban signs within 500 feet of the center of the highway.

The Outdoor Advertising Association bill and the highway business council bill both would set up regulations of highway signs rather than prohibit them. They would control density of signs and their location in relation to city limits.

Portland Bus Drivers Reject Wage Offer

Portland—(U.P.)—Portland bus and trolley drivers and mechanics last night rejected a wage and vacation offer by Portland Traction Company by a 15-1 majority.

The company offer was a four-cent hourly pay boost and two-week vacations for two-year employees on a year-round basis.

M. E. Lienard, business representative of Streetcar-men's Local 757, AFL, said the union asked for a 15-hourly raise and vacations between April 1 and November 30. The union represents about 900 workers employed by the company.

Bridges' Union Loses Another Round

San Francisco—(U.P.)—Harry Bridges' longshore union has lost another round in its fight to avoid paying a one million dollar judgment for calling an illegal strike that caused the failure of the Juneau Spruce company of Alaska.

Federal Judge Louis E. Goodman rejected yesterday motions to quash the judgment won by the company in 1949, and to block examination of the union's books.

The International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's union contended that the company could not collect because more than five years had elapsed since it won the award. However, Goodman ruled that it was still a "live" judgment.

Salem—(U.P.)—A bill introduced in the House by Democrat Katherine Musa of The Dalles would provide a six per cent tax on gross revenues of power and communication utilities.

Mrs. Musa said her proposed tax would be in addition to all other taxes now paid by the utilities and would be administered by the State Tax Commission. Her bill would also repeal sections of the law relating to a gross earning tax on cooperative distributing systems.

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Beer To Minors Brings Six Months in Jail

Coquille—(U.P.)—Glen Farrin, 23, Coquille was sentenced to six months in the county jail and fined \$500 in Justice Court yesterday after pleading guilty to a charge of furnishing beer to minors.

District Attorney John Pickett said the arrest was an outgrowth of a fatal auto accident early Sunday in which two Coquille teenagers, Clinton Martindale and James Bradford, were killed.

Salem—(U.P.)—Memorials supporting statehood for Alaska and Hawaii received unanimous approval in the House after Rep. Robert Klemsen (D-St. Helens) pointed out to the Republican sponsors that a similar measure was defeated at the 1953 session.

The Alaska-Hawaii statehood memorial at that time had Democratic sponsorship.

The two memorials already had the backing of the Senate and now go to the governor for signature.

Amorous Couples Told To Carry Firearms

Johannesburg, South Africa—(U.P.)—Police here have authorized couples courting in Pretoria Park to carry pistols for protection against knife-wielding natives who have attacked a number of women recently.

Chief R. J. Vanderbergh advised amorous Johannesburgers yesterday they "are entitled to shoot to kill an assailant armed with a dangerous weapon."

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