

### Writer Compares Roman Opera, Shakespeare Under the Stars

(The following letter is from Mrs. E. E. Schuler, Medford woman who has been spending several months in Europe. Here Mrs. Schuler writes about open air opera performances, other interesting material about Rome and a trip to the island of Elba.)

Rome — On such a night as in August when the Shakespearean flags flutter in the Ashland breeze, and the tall pines are theatrical from artificial lighting; when the stars are bright, and there is a moon — on such a night I was at the "Under the Stars" opera in Rome. In a sense, the effect was similar. The pointed Italian cypress and the round umbrella pines in the big gardens were shot from underneath with startling greens; there was a moon, big stars, and a deep sky.

The backdrop for the summer opera is the ancient ruins of the Baths of Caracalla. The stage, supposed to be the biggest in the world, is set between two giant pillars, rising 100 feet into the air. This immense grandeur, floodlighted, was quite enough for me, but there was all this and opera too.

The opening performance was a premiere showing of Rossini's "Moses." It was spectacular. Moses, in his white robes, was big and imposing as he strode up the rock with his tablet. The storm and darkness was thrilling. The Red Sea, with big waves rising and falling, and parting for the chosen people, was convincing. From where we sat the effect was that of an animated, three-dimensional painting.

One thing seemed out of keeping. Rossini's music, almost ballet like with a little, dainty melodic strain running through it, was not big enough for the grandiose theme and settings of the opera.

The mechanics and settings for the three operas I saw were all remarkable. A camel and elephant (in Aida) had no more effect in dwarfing the stage than a pekingese might on an ordinary stage. The 10 per cent rise towards the back of the stage and the 30 per cent slope in the amphitheater makes it possible to see well in any of the 8000 seats. In the least expensive seats (prices range from 50 cents to \$5) I could see and hear as well as I care to see and hear any opera.

Oddly enough for such music-loving people, there was but little applause and curtain calling. There was no empathy, and little rapport, between audience and performers. People even began leaving before the end

of the opera. The author of this new book is Archibald Lyall, an English-

man. He is also a film star. He played the role of the ambassador in "American in Rome." He calls his book, "Roma, Sweet Roma."

**Island of Elba**  
I don't suppose that Napoleon Bonaparte had anything to do with a choice of place on which to be exiled, but had he selected one himself, he couldn't have chosen a more charming, delightful spot than the island of Elba.

Until a few weeks ago, I had visualized Elba vaguely as a nebulous rock somewhere out in some ocean. It came as a surprise when a friend suggested that we run over to Elba for the week end to discover that it is but a few hours ride from Rome.

We are now in Elba. We have traveled the little two-mile square island from end to end, and across, up quite steep hills and down to jewel-like harbors and tiny bays. We have visited Napoleon's winter palace and summer villa, and are now, on a good beach at as beautiful a resort as one could imagine.

My curiosity knows no bounds. Why this place, every bit in my mind anyway, as lovely as either Capri or Mallorca is not swarming with tourists, I can't figure out. On the ship coming over there were a few French and Germans, lots of natives and two Americans. At the hotel here are two more Americans from Naples. The only explanation they could give is that rich Italians have bought most of the desirable bays, have built villas and are purposely not advertising it. But there is this hotel, as modern in style and as beautiful as anything on the mainland, about half-filled.

Anyway, like Walter Winchell,

I predict that when Americans really start coming, the island will sink from overweight and high prices.

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**Lady Elks**  
Lady Elks will meet in the lodge dining room for luncheon and cards at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 21. All wives of Elks are invited.



Mrs. Robert Riley Minter was the former Wynona Mae Womelsdorf, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Womelsdorf, Eagle Point, before her wedding August 10 in Medford Church of the Nazarene. The bridegroom's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Minter, also of Eagle Point. Mr. Minter and his bride are shown (inset) during the reception as they drank their wedding punch. The newlyweds will live on Butte Falls route, Eagle Point. —(Landis-Shangle photos)

### Nazarene Church Ceremony Weds Pair

Eagle Point—An event of Friday, August 10, was the wedding of Miss Wynona Mae Womelsdorf to Robert Riley Minter at Medford Church of the Nazarene. The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Womelsdorf, Eagle Point, and the bridegroom's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Minter, also Eagle Point.

About 200 guests attending the double-ring ceremony, read by the Rev. Raymond Hurn, at 8 o'clock in the evening. The bride's parents were also married in this Nazarene church.

Solists were Melvin Johnson and Mrs. Mildred Lindell. Miss Ruth Bremster was organist.

The bride's gown of imported lace and tulle over white slipper satin was fashioned with full skirt and slight train. Her fingertip length veil was held by a crown of orange blossoms and she carried white carnations centered with a white orchid. Her pearl necklace was the bridegroom's gift. For "something old" the bride wore a petticoat first worn in 1900.

Mrs. Robert Beatty, Medford, the former Carol Johnson and an aunt of the bride, was matron of honor. She wore a blue frock with a pearl necklace and her bouquet was Lady Jane gladiolus. Miss Doris Hammond, Eagle Point, Miss Sharon Lilly and Miss Beverly Cummons, Medford, were bridesmaids. Their gowns matched that worn by Mrs. Beatty but were in a lighter shade of blue and they also wore pearls. They carried Lady Jane gladiolus.

Miss Estelle Landreth, Mahama, Ore., cousin of the bride, and Vale Womelsdorf, brother of the bride, lighted the candles. Miss Landreth wore blue with a wrist bouquet of gladiolus.

Georgene Ring, cousin of the bride from Prospect, was flower girl and Daniel Johnson, Medford, cousin of the bride, carried the rings. They were dressed as miniature bride and bridegroom.

Mr. Womelsdorf gave his daughter in marriage, and Dean Collins, Eagle Point, was best man for Mr. Minter. William Womelsdorf, brother of the bride, William Brewster, Medford and Don Shearin, Phoenix, seated the guests.

The reception was held in Fellowship hall. Mrs. Marshall Caster, Eagle Point, cut the wedding cake and punch was served by Mrs. Walter Caster and Mrs. Melvin Johnson, Medford. Gifts were received by Miss Joyce Cowden, Eagle Point, and Miss Phyllis Wright, Medford, took charge of the guest book.

The bride's mother wore a dark blue dress with carnation corsage and the bridegroom's mother was attired in a lavender dress with carnation corsage.

Here for the wedding were Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Russel, Mahama, grandparents of the bride; Mrs. Clifford Landreth, Redmond, Ore.; Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Womelsdorf and family of Clatskanie, Ore.; and Mrs. A. Davis Grants Pass, grandmother of the bridegroom.

**Grandmothers' Club Plans Picnic Monday**  
Rogue chapter, 113, of the Grandmothers Club, will have a picnic Monday at 12:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Robert Rucker, 25 Quince street. Members are asked to take a salad or dessert if they have not been solicited. Visitors are welcome.

**Dance at Camp**  
Veterans of Foreign Wars auxiliary, Department of Oregon, plans another dance at the Camp White Domiciliary Monday, August 20, at 8 p.m. in the theatre. Music will be furnished by Chapman's orchestra.

Anyone wishing transportation may take a bus at Trailways depot at 7:30 p.m.

**Meeting Scheduled**  
Olive Rebekah lodge will meet Monday, August 20, at 8 p.m. at the Odd Fellows hall, 221 West Sixth street. Mrs. J. D. Brummond, noble grand, will preside. Refreshments will be served.

Mr. Minter and his bride made a honeymoon trip to Seattle and Victoria, B. C., and will live at Butte Falls Route 1, Eagle Point, after August 19. Both are graduates of Eagle Point High school and Mr. Minter is employed by Cascade Lumber company.

For traveling the bride wore a suit of charcoal grey with white accessories.

Both the Womelsdorf and Minter families are long-time residents of the Eagle Point area.

### Church Women Make Plans for Session in Fall

Coming events were planned at a board meeting held Wednesday, August 7, by the United Church Women in the parlors of the Methodist church. Mrs. J. C. Sparks, presided.

The Church of the Brethren, 345 May street, will be the hostess church September 7 for an all-day meeting and World's Mission institute. The meeting will start at 10 a.m. with luncheon being served at noon.

Mrs. James Morrow gave a report on the program to aid the 500 migrant workers now in the valley for the pear harvest. The local churches are cooperating in furnishing an international center which is open each Wednesday and Saturday evening in the social hall at the Catholic church on South Oakdale avenue. A need for more assistants, especially those who speak Spanish, was announced.

The warehouse supplies of clothing for needy people overseas have been exhausted and efforts are being made to collect used but usable clothing for shipment. It was announced, October 7 is the deadline for the collecting in Southern Oregon. Different local churches in Medford are the collection centers and duffel bags will be provided for the donations. All clothing should be clean and in wearable condition.

Following the business meeting Mrs. Henry Padgham of Jackson County Public Health association spoke on the importance of regular checkups and isolation of tuberculosis cases.

### Kansans Hold Annual Picnic

Southern Oregon Kansas association held the annual Kansas picnic Sunday, August 12, in Upper Lithia park, Ashland. A potluck luncheon was served at 1 p.m. followed by a sing-along led by James Cornett of Grants Pass. Nearly 200 persons attended the annual affair.

Letters from the governors of Kansas and Oregon were read expressing their appreciation of loyalty shown in "state picnics." Officers elected for 1957 were Jake Treffinger, president, Mrs. Marie Giphart, vice-president, and George Swinney, secretary-treasurer.

Those attending the picnic who were honored included Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Fields and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fuchshage, newest arrivals to southern Oregon having moved here from Wichita; Harry LeClerc, 84, oldest person present; Mr. and Mrs. Morton Spielbusch and ten children, for the largest family present; Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Gott, couple who had been married the longest, 53 years; and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Coggins, who were married June 17, 1956, for the most recently married. Phillips county was also honored for having the largest delegation.

The Misses Oveta Walden and Sharon Roberts accompanied the group on their accordions during the sing-along and played several duets. Mr. Cornett also sang.

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