

Delos Smith's Book About Music Given Treatment From Years as News Reporter

By DOC QUIGG
 United Press Correspondent
 New York — Delos Smith is a 6-foot-2, 210-pound reporter-by-trade who wears an inquisitive look, from years of questing for real facts behind murders, fires, explosions, and such remarkable human excursions as the Ku Klux Klan, the Lindbergh kidnaping, and the Salk vaccine discovery.

He also has a slight stoop to his big frame from years of bending over desks by day, wrangling with words, and bending his expert ear at night toward record players, concert stages, symphonies, and opera.

And he also is science editor of an institution that shall not here be named — the United Press.

Bathed in Music
 This three-way career (he also is U.P. music critic and editor) does not strike him as strange because his overall approach to it is as a reporter, a calling into which he flung himself at age 18 in the early 1920s over his family's violent objections. They were sure he was going to be a Methodist preacher. He thought otherwise.

His family, however, had one victory. They bathed him in music, as he says, "practically from birth." And, as he says in the preface of his new book, "Music In Your Life," published today by Harper:

"Although it is a private matter, I don't mind saying that if music were taken from my life, the loss would be grievous and, perhaps, insupportable. Privately, I believe the 46 geniuses described in this book are among the greatest human beings who ever existed."

Mozart a Nincompoop
 "Indeed, it is my private belief that Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was the greatest of all human beings. It pains me exquisitely to have to report to you, in my professional capacity, that he was something of a nincompoop."

His approach to this book is strictly reportorial. It presents, in one volume, in a series of intimate portraits, the lives of the 46 greatest musical composers across five centuries, from Palestrina to Gershwin. Smith's interest in them is as human beings—in getting a close, hard

look at their lives and personalities. He thinks it is that each remained a human being despite his genius.

You Do or Don't
 Smith is a colorful writer, and he is also a no-nonsense man. He will tell you, in conversation: "I think there is more blank-blank

nonsense about music, more people scared away from it by posters, than in any field. People

say, 'I can't understand music.' It's not music they don't understand; it's neurotic attitudes

about music. "My rule about music is very simple. If I like it, it's music; if I don't like it, it isn't music. That's true—it isn't music to me."

I would urge that attitude on anybody: If they don't like Bach, for heaven's sake say so. I understand music, but I'm a newspaperman."

PROTESTING after being arrested for failing to register in Beverly Hills, Calif., as ex-convict, ex-mobster Mickey Cohen is rearrested for "inviting arrest." (International)

Veterans Farm, Home Loan Bonds Sold

Salem — The Department of Veterans' Affairs sold \$6 million in veterans' farm and home loan bonds today to First National Bank of Portland and associates at an effective interest rate of 3.332 per cent.

This was .322 per cent lower than the all-time high rate paid by the department July 29 in a \$15 million issue costing 3.654 per cent.

Salem — Secretary of State Mark Hatfield is in Cleveland for a three-day institute sponsored by the American Psychiatric Association.



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