

American Opera Composer Is Calm On Eve of Debut of Latest Endeavor

By DOC QUIGG
United Press Correspondent

New York — The curtain at the hallowed Metropolitan Opera house rises to-night on the first full-length opera by a native American to be staged at the Met in 24 years, and the composer — a West Chester, Pa., boy — says he's not nervous.

"He sounds convincing, too," "Nervous? No. No more than normally so. It has been going very well in rehearsal."

Although the world premiere tonight of "Vanessa," a four-act opera, will be Samuel Barber's first staged opera, he is a veteran of musical premieres. For 40 years—he began coming when he was seven—he has been turning out songs, symphonies, ballets and other works.

Barber's Second Opera
This is his second opera. He wrote his first as a boy of nine. It concerned Gypsies in his native Chester county and a Metropolitan Opera tenor. The boy composer already was steeped in Met lore because his aunt was that company's famed contralto, Louise Homer.

Turning out the words to young Sam's opera was the family cook, a musical character from Ireland named Annie Brosius Sullivan Noble. Unfortunately, she departed the family kitchen before she finished the libretto, and only the first act of the thing has words.

Sitting at rehearsal of "Vanessa" in the dark and empty opera house, while the soprano voice of Eleanor Steber (a Wheeling, W. Va., girl) swelled above the softly dripping orchestra music, he told me about his boyhood opera venture:

"Aunt Louise had got me interested in opera. Annie, the cook, had been sent over here by my grandmother. When she wasn't busy chasing me out of the kitchen, she would work on the libretto to my first act. She had other talents, too — a remarkable collection of Irish songs and a habit of naming new dishes she had concocted."

Words by Menotti
All four acts of "Vanessa" have words aplenty, written by an old hand at opera words and music, Gian-Carlo Menotti. Menotti also is its stage manager.

Barber has been commissioned several times before to write an opera but never

started on one "because I never could find a subject, a story, format I liked." This time, Menotti had the story and offered to write the libretto. The locale of "Vanessa" is a northern European country, around 1905.

"We are going to do 'Vanessa' at the Salzburg Festival next August," Barber said. "It will be the first opera written by an American ever to be

given there. There are many American composers who should be having the same experience I am having, of writing an opera."

In Germany there are something like 40 opera houses, all subsidized, and I wish our country could have one in each state, with federal and state support. That's the way to bring opera to the American people."

GOLD HILL Meeting, Program Set

By MRS. CLYDE KELL

Gold Hill — Mrs. George A. Loftin will be hostess for a meeting of the Sams Valley Home Extension unit at her home in Sams Valley beginning at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21.

Members will take a sack lunch. Coffee will be served by Mrs. Loftin.

Consumer buying was the title of the lesson presented at the December meeting in the home of Mrs. Milton Sanderson. Leaders were Mrs. Sanderson and Mrs. Loftin.

Visitors at the December meeting were Mrs. Donald Elder, Mrs. Elmer Korner, and Mrs. A. Stevens, all of Sams Valley, and Mrs. L. Wiley of Medford.

A program on hunting safety will be given by the Oregon State Game commission at a meeting of the Gold Hill Explorer Post 43 Wednesday, Jan. 15, according to Willard Waterhouse, senior crew leader of the post. He said the program will consist of a movie and short talk.

Officers for the ensuing year, of the Gold Hill Odd Fellow and Amethyst Rebekah lodges will be installed at a joint installation ceremony Tuesday, Jan. 21, in the local Odd Fellow's hall. Installing officers will be Mrs. Clarence Parsely, Gold Hill, district deputy president, and John Black, Jacksonville, district deputy grandmaster. The installing team is from the Jacksonville Odd Fellow and Rebekah lodges.

Mrs. Paul Thompson is noble grand elect for the Amethyst Rebekah lodge and Jerry Herrington is noble grand elect for the Gold Hill Odd Fellows lodge. Retiring noble grands are Mrs. Lester Parker and Wilbur Martin.

Walter Doherty, Upper Riv-

er rd., is among those from here attending the winter quarter at Southern Oregon college at Ashland.

Mrs. Bessie Henderson, Pacific Highway 99, north, was hostess Jan. 10 for a meeting of the Women's Missionary Group of the Gold Hill Christian church.

Mrs. Rex Allison, president of the group, presided at the business session and read an article on Israel. Mrs. Alfred Castillo gave a reading.

Plans were made for a work day at the church on Wednesday, Jan. 15, beginning at 10 a.m. Painting and decorating in addition to general clean up work will be done at this time.

Two visitors were present at the meeting. They were Mrs. Nick Giesch, Blackwell Hill, and Mrs. Alfred Castillo of Medford.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Wallace Neece on Lampman rd., Feb. 14. Mrs. H. V. Munday will be in charge of the program.

Mr. and Mrs. Eroll Miller and Mrs. Blanche Merriman have returned to their homes here following the holidays spent in Fresno, Calif., where they visited Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Piening and Mrs. Florence Piening. Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Merriman and Mrs. Florence Piening are sisters.

Of interest to many people in southern Oregon is the promotion of Mrs. Vernon (Dorothy) Taylor to district manager of Avon products. Mrs. Taylor is the former Dorothy Smith, who attended the Gold Hill school. Her territory will include Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos counties.

Airman Third Class Rose Drake of the Women's Air



REUNION—Air Force Maj. Howard E. Curran, who was secretly detained in Communist Albania for 19 days after making a forced landing, is shown as he was reunited with his three motherless children in Chateaux, France. Children are, left to right: Patricia, 8; Mary Lou, 4, and William, 12. Maj. Curran plans to make an issue of the detainment because the Albanians had played a cruel trick on his children, who believed he was dead.

The Hollywood Scene

By VERNON SCOTT
United Press Writer

Hollywood — Affable Art Linkletter is the nation's Number One matchmaker, determined to marry a couple on his show at any cost — even if it means supplying a ladder for an elopement.

When his gimmick for bringing "ideal" couples together on his "People are Funny" show failed to ring the wedding bell, Link was beside himself—no mean feat for a man his size.

In a frantic attempt to lure a couple to the altar, Art imported a hypnotist to mesmerize a couple into tying the knot.

A Little of Barnum
Linkletter has taken to heart the saying "All the world loves a lover" and combined it with Barnum's philosophy about the birth rate of suckers.

"Most people are incurable romantics," he said. "When we started introducing young couples on the show we expected abuse and criticism."

Force left Monday, Jan. 13, for Sheppard Air Force base at Wichita Falls, Tex., following a visit here with her parents and brother, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Drake, and Mike. Before her arrival home on Jan. 5, she completed basic training at Lackland Air Force base, San Antonio, Tex.

But there have been remarkably few letters complaining about "nothing being sacred." Millions of lonesome people get a lift from our little TV romances.

The odds are one couple out of ten brought together by Univac will be married, according to Art. He vows that contestants aren't bribed or pressured into off-screen hand-holding.

His eyes light up like a short circuit in a pinball machine when he talks about a recent pair of Linkletter love birds who became engaged via the program.

Positively in Love
"They are Shirley Saunders and Bob Kardell," he gloated. "Of the 20 or so couples we've teamed up I'm positive they're really in love. They have been dating five or six nights a week."

"Some of the other couples continued to see one another desultorily, but Bob and Shirley have set the wedding date for some time in May or June. They won't be married on the show. The kids thought it wouldn't be in good taste."

Doesn't that louse up Art's big finale?
"No," he frowned. "We'll have pictures of the ceremony. And they've promised to visit us after they settle down. Don't worry, there will be plenty of excitement about it on the program."

"The high point would be if they name their first baby after me," Art grinned. "Unless, of course, it's a girl!"

ILLINOIS VALLEY Fire Destroys Home

By HELEN BOTTEL

Cave Junction — A four-room furnished house at Foster Court on the Redwood highway south of Cave Junction was destroyed by fire late last week. Loss was estimated by owner Hugh Foster at \$5,000.

Occupants were Mrs. E. T. Grubbs and her two children, Terry, 10, and Laurie, 8, daughter and grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Foster. Mrs. Grubbs' husband died Oct. 23, following a long illness, at Portland Veterans hospital.

Mrs. Grubbs and the children were at the Foster home when a neighbor, Jimmy McKinnon reported the blaze. Fire trucks and volunteers from Cave Junction and O'Brien arrived in time to save other buildings in the court, but everything in the burning building, including the family's clothes and personal belongings were lost.

Laurence Cushing, Cave Junction attorney who is doing the legal work in connection with the Illinois Valley Irrigation district election, plans an early meeting with bureau of reclamation Engineer Lee McAllister to make further studies on descriptions of properties within the proposed district.

A potluck dinner and belated Christmas gift exchange was held by 20 members and guests of the Illinois Valley Mineral Hobbies club recently at the Selma cafe building.

Dale Tucker was reelected president; Frank Loosley, vice president; Sophia Bunch, secretary, and Doris Boyd, treasurer, at a business meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Spitz entertained as dinner guests last Wednesday Mr. and Mrs. Earl Boyd and Mr. and Mrs. Mike Smith.

Visiting in the valley Thursday were Air Force Lt. and Mrs. Bill Kaster and children, Kim and Bill Jr., who had been in southern California to spend Christmas with Bill's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Hall at Claremont.

Frank Knight landed a big steelhead just below Pomeroy dam last week, indicating the fish are beginning to move into the upper Illinois river. Several other catches have been reported.

First meeting of the newly reorganized Illinois Valley High school advisory group will be tonight at the school.

Ralph Burns, vocational

agriculture instructor at the high school, gave an informal talk on fitting students for life at the Illinois Valley Farm Bureau meeting Thursday evening.

Colored slides of Hawaii, taken by Mrs. Fred Nelsen, and pictures of the southwest, taken by Mr. and Mrs. Harry O. Smith, were shown by Smith.

Dr. Joseph Meyer, Cave Junction dentist, showed two films on fluoridation of water as a tooth decay preventative at the joint meeting of Illinois Valley Parent-Teacher association groups Thursday at Evergreen school.

Joyce Riblett, of the Del Rogue Veterans of Foreign Wars auxiliary, was a visitor at the local VFW auxiliary meeting Thursday night. As district chairman for poppy sales, Mrs. Riblett outlined preparatory work necessary for Poppy Day in May.

Mrs. Frank Rauber, as a member of the steering committee for the Extension Service leadership classes to be held Feb. 10-14, is planning to make up a carload of persons to attend from the Illinois valley.

New residents of the valley are Mr. and Mrs. Dale Ackerman and family who have moved from Medford to the Ira Hall home on Old Stage rd. Ackerman is employed as a saw filer for Forest Green Lumber company.

Gordon White, vice president and manager of the Bank of Illinois Valley, was elected a director of the Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce at a recent meeting. He replaces Orville Meredith who resigned shortly before he left the valley for the winter.

Court Records

MUNICIPAL COURT
William Richard Edwards, disobeyed stop sign, \$5.
Barbara Jean McCormick, disobeyed stop sign, \$5.
Lillie Hoover Hoover, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Sarah D. Phillips, failure to maintain proper lookout, \$10.
Helen Irene Mandie, violation of basic rule, \$10.

Theodore Lincoln Reaves, disobeyed traffic signal, \$5.
Anna Mae Scalberg, violation of basic rule, \$10.
William C. Piper, failure to yield the right-of-way, \$10.
Lloyd Orby Nikodym, violation of basic rule, \$10.
James Understeen, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Kenneth Delbert Lawrentz, defective equipment, \$5.
Marvin Rose, disobeyed stop sign, \$5.

Elmer Ellsworth Kyle, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Dennis Perry McCov, racing with another vehicle, \$25.
Kenneth Gary Woods, failure to yield the right-of-way, \$10.
Ed H. Day, disobeyed traffic signal, \$5.
James Beaton, disobeyed stop sign, \$5.

Glen Evert Wilson, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Richard F. Arndt, violation of basic rule, \$10.
Imogene Thomas Thoren, failure to maintain proper lookout, \$10.
Kenneth Gene Morris, disobeyed traffic signal, \$5.

DISTRICT COURT
Eugene Earl Lawson, defective emergency brake, \$5.
Floyd Clifford Evenden, over-weight, \$10.
Orval Otto Oliver, defective signal device, \$5.

Ernest William Oden, no operator's license, \$10.
Chester J. Thomason, driving without headlights, \$5.
Joseph Leroy Cooley, failure to dim lights, \$5.
Edward Henry Close, overweight, \$15, bail.

Karl Merritt Proctor, passing when view ahead is not clear, \$15, bail.
Truman Lee Milton, improper muffler, \$15.
Raymond Joseph Cyr, failure to signal, \$5.
William Anthony Cobb Jr., no brakes, \$4.

CIRCUIT COURT
Arthur William Bath vs. Dorothy Bath, divorce decree.
Lois L. Edwards vs. Roy E. Edwards, divorce decree.

Alvin L. Lewis vs. Aubrey Crow, divorce decree.
Marvin Gordon vs. Helen Jane Gordon, divorce decree.
Vernon T. Sowan vs. Alfred E. Bowman, divorce complaint.

Judith Marie Cooley vs. Keith Allen Cooley, divorce complaint.
MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS
Marvin Cole Harkey and Margaret Ann Townsend, both of Ashland.
Wilbert Andrew Tharp, Ashland, and Joyce Ann Kiefer, Talent.

NO BEAR

Madison, Conn. — A frightened woman motorist telephoned police that a "big, black bear" was walking along the highway. Police found a big, black shaggy dog.



by ED HALL

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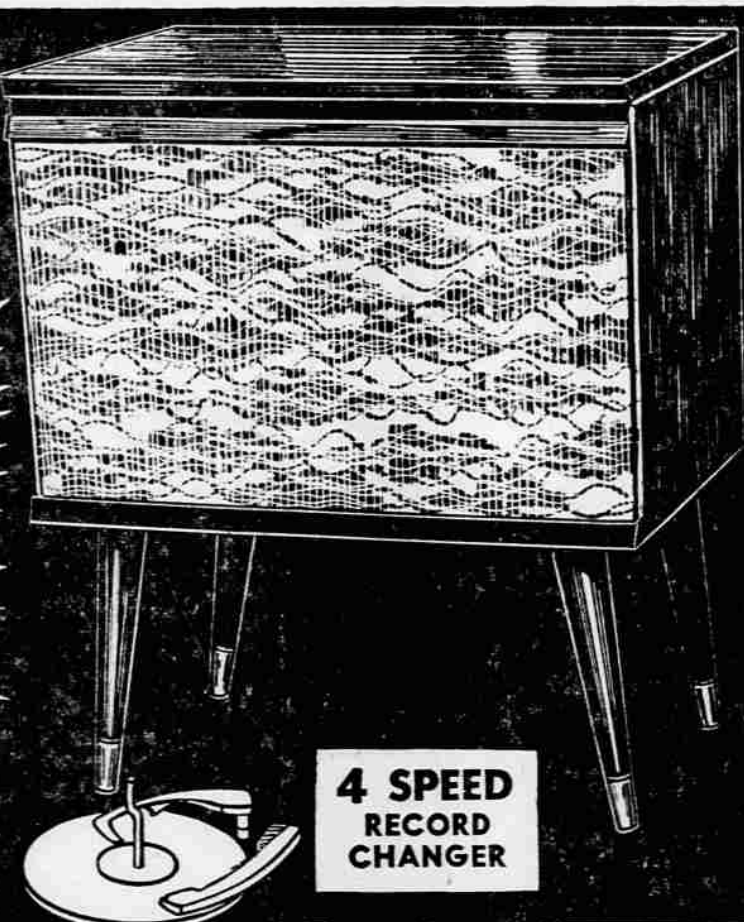
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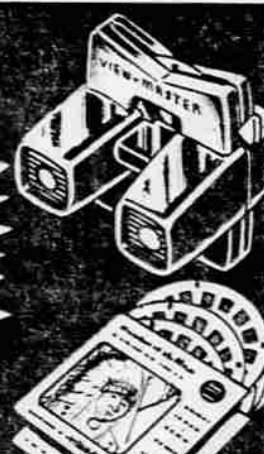
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