

Texas Musician Continues To Get Raves In Russia

Moscow—Van Cliburn, the young Texan who won this year's Tchaikovsky piano contest, is still the apple of Russia's eye after more than a month in this country.

Crowds turned out to greet him everywhere on his recent provincial tour, which took him to Leningrad, Riga, Kiev and Minsk. He has received more than 7,000 fan letters from all over Russia—some of them from people who have never heard him play.

Receives Lilacs
One of the high points of his tour was an encounter in Minsk. An 18-year-old girl was waiting at the railroad station at 2 a.m. to give Cliburn a bunch of lilacs when he boarded the train. She asked for his autograph, explaining that she had come 50 miles to hear him play and then had been unable to get a ticket to the concert.

Professors at the Leningrad Conservatory gave him an album inscribed "To Van Cliburn, who has completely captivated the audiences of Leningrad."

When he walked on stage in Kiev to play Rachmaninoff's 3rd Concerto, he discovered that a fan had placed a bouquet of artificial flowers at each end of the piano keyboard.

"Playing the first movement was a little confusing," Cliburn recalled.

Political Poster Law To Be Tested

Portland—In a test case of an Oregon law regulating posting of political signs, a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Multnomah county assessor was arrested Wednesday.

The candidate, Joe Hawkins, was released on his own recognizance by District Judge John Gantenbein. The warrant was issued at the request of the State Department of Labor.

Hawkins was charged with placing a political poster on a public highway. He said he had the owner's permission to post the sign.

Hawkins, in a letter to State Labor Commissioner Norman Nilsen, said he considered the law unconstitutional and volunteered to argue a test case of the state's constitutionality. The law calls for a \$25 fine for each poster placed in violation.

Official Whiskey Taster is Teetotaler

Lynchburg, Tenn.—Lant Wood is a teetotaler, but the first thing he does every working day is get a mouthful of whiskey.

Wood is official taster at the only whiskey distillery in Tennessee (Jack Daniel) and he's been tasting whiskey since 1938.

At the age of 79, Wood figures he's tasted between 16 and 17 million gallons of sour mash whiskey.

He mounds a swig the first thing when he goes to work and tastes the whiskey again before it's bottled.

Wood thinks one reason he's a good taster is because he still has his own teeth.

"Can't taste anything with false teeth," he said.

Wood said taste will show if there's anything wrong with the combination of corn, barley and rye that makes up the mash.

Wood said he's never swallowed a drop of whiskey. He takes it in his mouth, rolls it around—and then spits it out.

Ike Sees Decision Near On Tax Cuts

Washington—President Eisenhower said Wednesday a decision on anti-recession tax cuts will have to be made by June. But he refused to speculate what the decision will be.

Portland—Dr. Wendell L. Van Loan, Corvallis educator, has been reelected president of the Oregon Tuberculosis and Health Association.



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