

# Miss Thebom Wins Over Audience at Civic Concert Here

By R. D. WERNER

The much-heralded Blanche Thebom, mezzo-soprano, was heard last night at the Medford High school auditorium in the third concert of the season for Jackson County Civic Music association. She was accompanied at the piano by William Hughes.

Endowed with a lovely voice, with an ingratiating personality and an arresting stage presence, Miss Thebom soon won over her audience. The program began with a not-too familiar aria by Mozart, followed by five lieder by Brahms. This was a most decided contrast in musical styles and the singer made the most of the opportunity thus presented. Displaying a certain amount of agility, the aria was done with sympathy and understanding.

**Phrasing High Order**  
In the lieder, of which five by Brahms are too many, Miss Thebom showed a good share of musicianship and a certain amount of coloring. Her phrasing was of a high order, but her diction left much to be desired. This was true all through the program. Since the music is created as a result of the words, it seems to us that any interpreter is duty-bound to deliver the message, else the composer's effort is in vain. And it is this failing that left the three arias from "Carmen" by Bizet meaningless.

After the intermission, four

## Traffic Commission Upholds Speed Law

Salem—UP—Oregon's traffic safety commission stuck by the state's basic speed law rule Wednesday for the second time in less than a year when it defeated by a 5-2 vote a recommendation that it endorse a speed law with a top maximum speed.

Last June the same recommendation failed to get Commission blessing.

The issue was re-submitted the commission because of plans of the Association of Chiefs of Police and the Highway Lifesavers to urge maximum speeds in cities of the state.

Several members expressed the opinion that the state's speed law should be uniform in cities and in rural areas.

## Court Records

**DISTRICT COURT**  
Stella W. Worthington, violation of basic rule, \$15.  
Alfred J. Harday, Pelton Orchards, drunk on public highway, \$30.  
Leland D. Hecker, failure to make traffic stop, \$10.

**CIRCUIT COURT**  
Ruby Fein vs. Arnold Fein, divorce complaint.  
Roy A. Anderson vs. Anna E. Anderson, divorce complaint.  
Katheryn P. Cole vs. Robert Hubert Cole, divorce complaint.

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songs by Paladilhe—very lovely, delicate and very French, were presented with the lovely tone, but no meaning. In this group Mr. Hughes did his best work.

The last group was one of announced songs in English, mostly humorous and greatly enjoyed by the audience. Even here, diction was not evident.

But withal, the remembrance of the beautiful voice and the lovely lady made it an evening well spent. Bon Voyage!

## Marital Law Set In Congo Rioting

Brazzaville, Congo — UP—French led troops and police clamped virtual martial law on Brazzaville today to curb the savage rioting which has killed at least 54 Negroes and injured about 100 here this week.

Under the direction of French high commissioner Georges Guy, about 5,000 riflemen brought in from nearby Chad set about enforcing a dusk-to-dawn curfew and other features of a drastic "protection plan."

They set up checkpoints and barriers in an effort to keep rival M'Bochi and Balali tribesmen, living in the squalid shantytowns which fringe this tropical capital, from flying at each others throats.

Although riotous raiders have been passing back and forth through the modern districts of central Brazzaville, none of the city's 4,000-odd white residents has been molested.

## Wallace Discloses Eisenhower Vote

South Salem, N. Y. — UP—Henry A. Wallace disclosed today that he voted for Dwight D. Eisenhower for president in 1956.

The 70-year-old former Democratic vice president of the United States, said he does not know whether he will vote Democratic or Republican in 1960.

"I will be for the person who will do a real, imaginative job on the foreign front, in the interest of world peace. That's why I voted for Ike." Wallace said it "looks inevitable" that the House and Senate will go Democratic in 1960.

"I don't see one chance in a million that it will be otherwise," he added.

"Will a Democratic president be elected next year?" he was asked.

"Not necessarily," he replied.

## One-Way Traffic On Two Highways

Salem—UP—One-way traffic on Highways 101 and 42 south and east of Coquille remained in effect today and snow hampered traffic on the Columbia river highway.

The Highway Department reported snow on the water grade Columbia river route from mile post 27 east with a silver thaw on the Crown Point secondary highway from Springdale to Latourelle falls.

There was one-way traffic on the Wasco-Heppner route because of snow.

## Prankster Blamed For Bomb Threat

Portland—UP—United Air Lines officials today blamed a prankster for a telephoned bomb threat which resulted in a delay of three planes here and one in Pendleton Wednesday.

A juvenile voice called UAL in Seattle about 9 a.m. Wednesday and said "There's a bomb on one of your planes." Three flights here and one in Pendleton were searched but no bomb was found.

Some 200 passengers in the four planes had about a two-hour delay as a result of the call.

## Woman Witnesses Selection of Jury

Ventura, Calif. — UP—Mrs. Elizabeth Duncan, 54, accused of masterminding the murder of her pregnant daughter-in-law, returns to court today to witness the drawn out struggle of selecting a jury to try her for her life.

There was hope a jury would be selected by late today or Friday.

The grandmotherly appearing Santa Barbara, Calif., matron has watched with interest since opening of the trial Monday while a panel of 150 prospective jurors was questioned on whether they believe she hired two ex-convicts to kill her son's wife, Olga, 30, last Nov. 17.

Many members of the unusually large panel which by the end of Wednesday had dwindled to 88 admitted they believed her guilty and were excused.

Mrs. Duncan has been pictured as being so jealous of her son, Frank, 30, an attorney, that she paid to have his wife of six months killed.

## Search Continues For Woman's Body

Tijuana, Mexico — UP—Police joined by FBI agents and American police continued their search today for the dismembered body of a woman believed to have been murdered in the U.S.

Two legs and two handless arms were found Tuesday, along the Ensenada-Tijuana road three miles south of here.

Police said the victim was a caucasian woman, about 5 feet 3 inches tall and around 30 years of age.

"An examination of the remains indicates someone tried to destroy them by fire and then brought them here for disposal," George Benjamin Lugo, chief of the state police here, announced.

Lugo said it appeared the woman was murdered in the U.S. and the body dismembered before an attempt was made to drive across the border for disposal.

The victim was believed killed about midnight Monday.

## Convair Reveals Plan For 'Swing-Tail' Plane

San Diego — UP—Convair division of General Dynamics Corp. has revealed plans for a "swing tail" version of the 636 mile an hour Convair 600 jet passenger plane.

The cargo craft would provide for easier loading by having a tail section that swings aside and lowered to truck-bed height, a spokesman for Convair said. The cargo area in the plane would be 80 feet long, 10 feet wide and seven feet high.

## Grants Pass Junkman Assigned Penalty

Salem—UP—Public Utility Commissioner Jonel C. Hill today assigned a penalty of \$100 against Clifford J. Shoemaker of the Ashland Junk Company, a Grants Pass private motor carrier.

He was charged with hauling tractor parts from Portland to Grants Pass without a proper permit.

# Debbie Reynolds Receives Divorce In Brief Hearing

Hollywood — UP—My husband has become interested in another woman," actress Debbie Reynolds testified today in receiving a divorce from boyish singer Eddie Fisher.

In obvious reference to sultry screen siren Elizabeth Taylor, the actress told the court, "It began early in September but there was great publicity and there were pictures in the papers. It still continues," she said in receiving her decree in less than 10 minutes. Miss Taylor's name was not mentioned during the brief trial.

**Divorce Discussed**  
Asked if she had discussed divorce at the time with the tousle-haired singer, Miss Reynolds said:

"Yes, we did discuss divorce and he said he wished to have one. To say the least, I was very distressed."

The actress looked pert and cheerful and she walked into the courtroom of Superior Judge Roger Pfaff. She wore a simple black gray suit with black velvet collar.

Fisher, 30, who gained his freedom and an opportunity to marry Miss Taylor, was not in court, nor was his attorney. The dark-eyed Liz was widowed last year when millionaire showman Mike Todd died in a New Mexico plane crash.

Miss Reynolds was given custody of the couple's two children, Carrie, 2, and Todd, 1.

A property settlement negotiated between the 26-year-old Debbie and her husband gave her the \$150,000 family mansion and \$40,000 yearly alimony and child support.

She was awarded the home, "subject to existing encumbrances," certain securities, and a \$100,000 life insurance policy on the singer. Miss Reynolds also retains all her own property, including her Palm Springs resort home.

The alimony payments are to be based on Fisher's earnings and he also agreed to pay portions of the children's edu-

ational and medical expenses.

friend of the young actress, Camiolo Williams, a close

corroborated testimony that Fisher had treated his wife in

a "cruel and inhuman" manner.

and tried to keep the marriage together," Miss Williams said.

"Debbie was deeply shocked and I'm glad the legal proceedings are over," Debbie said when the brief trial ended. Asked by reporters if she was glad the marriage had come to an end, she answered, "I wouldn't say that."

## True Magazine Has Article on John Day

The March issue of True magazine, on sale today, includes an illustrated article on the mountain engineering achievements of John S. Day, Central Point rancher.

The article, entitled "I Took the High Road," relates Day's feat last summer in climbing 17 west coast mountain peaks within an eight-week period. The list includes Mt. Rainier, Mt. Shasta and Mt. Whitney as well as Mt. Hood, nearby Mt. McLoughlin and six other Oregon peaks.

His ascent of Mt. Whitney in just over five hours, and descent in just under three, equal the all-time record for the round trip on that peak, the article reports.

Nine color photographs show techniques and obstacles in climbing, and dramatic scenery.

Day's training included a daily routine of 40 minutes with weights, a 400-yard swim and a three-mile run. The article gives his age as 50.

## Statewide Curfew Proposal Tabled

Salem—UP—A proposal for statewide curfew law to replace varying local curfew ordinances was tabled by the House Judiciary Committee here Wednesday.

The bill would have set the curfew for minors under 18 at midnight on week days and at 1 a.m. on week ends and legal holidays.

Also tabled was a bill which would have required all drivers to take tests for drunkenness at the request of a police officer.

Now drivers must consent in writing to such a test.

## Britain Announces Armed Forces Cut

London—UP—Britain will cut its army to 252,000 in the coming year from 312,000 at the end of 1958, it was announced today.

Net estimated expenditure on the "atomic age" army for 1959-60 is 431,350,000 pounds (\$1,207,780,280) 50,000 pounds (\$140,000) less than for 1958-1959.

The figures were included in a white paper published today, along with a report by war minister Christopher Soames.

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