

DAR Names Conference Delegates

The 49th annual state conference of the Oregon State Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, will be held in Salem March 4-6. Mrs. Judd Greenman, regent of Crater Lake chapter, will be the delegate from the chapter, and Miss Florence M. Gifford, vice-regent, is her alternate.

The chapter elected other delegates at the last meeting, held January 26 at Girls Community club. They are Mesdames Edward C. Root, G. R. Carter, T. J. Gifford, O. C. Rawlings, R. K. Bailey, R. E. Green and O. H. Breneman. Alternates elected are Mesdames Lawrence McDaniel, H. S. Chirgwin, W. G. Cummings, Bruce B. Martin, J. L. Houck, J. M. Rice and Miss Helen Crumpton.

The chapter paid tribute in a candlelight memorial service to two members who had died recently—Miss Abby Lucille Sturtevant and Mrs. D. O. Hood, past chapter regent and state officer.

A group of songs by American composers was sung by Mrs. Rodney L. Newman.

The program consisted of a panel discussion led by Mrs. Bailey on resolutions passed by the Continental Congress of the DAR on deficit spending, citizen army, medical care under social security, socialization of American agriculture and water resources. Taking part in the panel were Mesdames Carter, B. G. Harding, M. N. Morris, Lawrence McDaniel and Bailey.

Guest day will be observed in February and the program will be one of American music, Mrs. H. E. March, Chairman of American Music, announced.

Calendar

Calendar notices and news for the society section of The Mail Tribune must be submitted in writing and deadline for the Sunday edition is 1 p.m. Friday. Deadline for the weekly calendar is 9 a.m. of the day of publication and for week day news is 5 p.m. the day before publication.

Wednesday:
8 p.m.—Rogue Valley Art Association, Red Cross auditorium.

Thursday:
1 p.m.—Olive Rebekah lodge, home of Mrs. LeRoy Cline.

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Social Events ♦ Women's News



We've decided that the time has come to do a little clearing of the air about reviews of music published in The Mail Tribune. So, after doing some research to be sure of our facts, here goes.

James A. Johnston wrote in a letter to the editor January 23: "It is time to get a new music critic for the paper. For years Mr. Werner has been writing these reviews of all the musical activities of the town. And in all this time I have not seen a single one in which he has been able to say that the performance was good. In fact, he always has to say something highly critical. His review of the Gregg Smith Singers was one such report." The letter continues, but it is this portion on which we wish to comment.

Mr. Johnston is in error in believing that Mr. Werner (Richard D.) reviews all the musical activities of the town. He does write most of the reviews for Civic Music programs, and an occasional one for other musical events. However, many reviews have been written by other staff members, including this reporter, George H. Bell, Evelyn Ousterhout and Faith McCallough, or by guest reviewers, such as Edith Rode, John Drysdale and Southern Oregon college faculty members.

As for Mr. Johnston not seeing a single review in which Mr. Werner has been able to say that the performance was good, either he does not read all the reviews, or he has forgotten their content. We have on hand a stack of clippings of Mr. Werner's articles, and some of the headlines read as follows:

"Reviewer Praises Pianist," "Reviewer Praises Young Violinist," "Reviewer Says Program was 'Balm for the Soul,'" and "Miss Theobom Wins Over Audience." are some of these. Of the pianists, Josette and Yvette Roman, Mr. Werner wrote: "Not only are these very charming Parisian young ladies an excellent duo, but they are most accomplished as individual pianists. Possessed of brilliant technique, they used it to convey musical meaning rather than for mere display."

The "Balm for the Soul" review was written about the "Orchestra San Pietro of Naples" and Mr. Werner said: "This orchestra da camera (chamber orchestra) is composed of virtuosi. The clarity of technique, quality of tone and precision of ensemble could only be achieved by musicians of high quality and skill. . . . The dynamics, nuances and coloring were superb."

The young violinist of whom he wrote was David Abel of San Francisco. Part of the review reads, "From the first two notes ('Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso' by Saint-Saens) an open fifth—and the love he gave them served notice that the lesson in music was over and now he would be happy and sing. And sing he did. Although the work is bristling with difficulties, as any violinist can attest, he overcame them all with aplomb, taste and style. This was music in the virtuosic manner, and Abel proved his virtuosity. . . . His intonation was impeccable, and the composition has some nasty chords. The last page was all pure pearls. Abel, you would have made Saint-Saens happy."

Since Mr. Werner believes, as do most first rate critics, that it is only fair to both audiences and performer to point out deficiencies as well as good qualities, he wrote that Abel—still in his mid-twenties, was not yet an artist in the full sense of the word.

In his review of the Nelson and Neal two-piano team Mr. Werner wrote that they "demonstrated technical prowess, interpretive sensitivity and musicianship of a high order." He ended by saying he hoped the team appeared here again. Of the National Artists Sinfonietta, with Amparo Irtubi as piano soloist, Mr. Werner praised the director, William Haaker, for his conducting of the Mozart selections, praised the woodwind section for its playing of a modern composition, and praised Miss Amparo as a "brilliant pianist."

Back in the 1959 season Mr. Werner wrote of the Rabinoffs, Benno and Sylvia, that Mr. Rabinoff "displayed a grasp of the classical style and demonstrated beyond a doubt a most proficient technical equipment." Of his wife he said her three numbers "were all brilliant numbers

Benefit Art Exhibit Plans Near Completion

Final preparations are well under way for an afternoon benefit for the Rogue Valley Art Association. He has taught privately in Medford for several years and given extension classes for the Oregon State System of Higher Education in Coos Bay and Grants Pass. His work is currently in the rental galleries of the Art Institute of Chicago and the Portland Art museum; the Benjamin Galleries and Frank Oehlshlaeger gallery in Chicago.

During the past few years Mr. Bennett has been developing a style of wood sculpture reminiscent of the totem poles of the northwest Indians. Groups of these poles are now in the collections of Omak Industries, Portland; U. S. National Bank of Portland, Eugene; Standard Insurance Co., Medford; and Mr. and Mrs. Harlow Carpenter, Waitsfield, Vermont. They were also featured at the Oregon pavilion in the Century 21 Worlds Fair, Seattle.

Mr. Bennett is a native of southern Oregon, having been born in Central Point. He was graduated from Medford High school, attended the University of Oregon until he entered the Navy during World War II. In 1947 he entered the Art Institute of Chicago and the University of Chicago where he received his masters degree. After a year of travel and painting in France and Italy he returned to Chicago to teach at New Trier Township High school and the Art Institute until returning to Medford in 1958.

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expertly executed. She displayed quite a bit of fire and warmth of feeling. A very lovely and talented lady."

Also in that season Mr. Werner reviewed the Griller String Quartet with great praise saying at one point "they are superb", in another that they are "most expert in contemporary music" and later "very lovely and sensitively done." The review ended "On the basis of the two concerts so far given, we are in for a beautiful musical season. We tip our hat!"

Mr. Werner has been writing for 10 years, so it would be impossible to quote from each review. But going back over the concert list and reviews we can report that he had deserved praise for such concert stars as Ruth Slenczynska and Walter Hautzig, both noted pianists; for the American Piano Trio, for the soprano, Dorothy Wareskjold, and for the Zurich Little Symphony orchestra, Jan Pearce, the American tenor, Bidu Sayag, the famous singer from South America, the Portland Junior Symphony orchestra, the popular folk singers from Africa, Marais and Miranda and Cesare Valletti, all received praise from Mr. Werner. There have been many others throughout the years.

There have been a few disappointing performers and programs and at these times Mr. Werner wrote what he considered an honest appraisal of the numbers. A few things this reporter has thought he was too charitable, if anything. An audience has a right to expect more than mere "entertainment" from highly billed and highly paid concert stars.

We also feel that this might be a good time to review Mr. Werner's qualifications as a musician, and a critic of music and those who are appearing on the concert stage. He began the serious study of music at the age of 8 and has continued to study, perform, direct and compose for more than 50 years. As a violinist he has studied and performed the music of the old and ancient masters through the moderns, in symphony, opera, musical shows, operettas, ballets, chamber music, and oratorio. Before coming to Oregon he played in New York and other eastern cities with Allschuler, Dantrosch, Sokoloff, Ormandy and Sodero.

For seven years he played with a chamber music group of four strings and piano, performing music literature from Corelli to Copland. He has known personally and heard most of the great singing artists from Caruso to Velelli and Gobi. He has listened to all of the great string players from Kubelik to Stern. For these who think that Mr. Werner is unduly critical of some contemporary music, let us point out that he studied under teachers of harmony, counterpoint, canon, fugue, composition and orchestration; these teachers had studied under Massenet, Bartok, Kodaly and Ponchielli. It can also be pointed out that his understanding and reaction to the periods of composition come from first-hand observation and participation in the music world for more than 50 years, and not merely from years spent in schools, colleges and universities.

In answer to Gary Lovre's letter of January 25, Mr. Werner would like to quote the eminent critic and musician, Henry Pleasants: "New music which cannot excite the enthusiastic participation of the lazy listeners has no claim to his sympathy and indulgence. Contrary to popular belief, all music which survives in the standard repertoire has met this condition in its own time." This goes for Bach and Mozart.

We believe that Mr. Werner has made a material contribution to the music life of southern Oregon. This includes, in addition to his own teaching schedule, considerable composing, conducting of concerts and operas, playing in orchestras and with a chamber music group as well as writing his knowledgeable reviews as a public service. His only remuneration for these reviews is two memberships which the association provides. Following each concert, usually evening events, Mr. Werner must remain up for an hour or so writing these, by hand, and delivering them to the Tribune office by 9:30 a.m. the next day in order to meet the paper's deadline. At times this is done at considerable personal effort, and the Tribune is grateful.

Since we have referred to the letters of Mr. Johnston and Mr. Lovre, perhaps we should also mention that of Raoul G. Maddox, Ashland. This writer was interested to learn that apparently Mr. Maddox, a teacher of music in the Ashland public schools, is not a member of Jackson County Civic Music Association, for he wrote: "After attending the Civic Music concert as a guest last Sunday evening I was surprised to hear (did he not read it for himself?) of the poor reviews in your paper. If I could be sure all the programs would be of this caliber, I wouldn't hesitate to purchase a membership when asked next year."

It is not necessary to be "asked" to join the association. Anyone interested in music may do so and his support will be welcomed. And this writer can assure Mr. Maddox that he need have no fears—for 22 seasons Jackson County Civic Music Association has been providing concerts for southern Oregon. This reporter has attended all but a few of these and we believe that many of them were as good and most were better than the Gregg Smith Singers, O.S.

Open Hoedown Set Saturday
An open Hoedown Square Dance will be held Saturday night at the Country Square, located on Colver road at Talent. Dancing will begin at 8:30 p.m.

Loyd Workman and Byron "Buz" Dibble will do the calling.

This is an open dance with no club affiliation. Women are asked to bring cookies or cake and all dancers are welcome.

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