

# 'Convertible' Amphitheatre To Foil Rain

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 20 (AP)—Pittsburgh's music lovers can look forward to concerts in a "convertible" amphitheatre—with the top lowered for clear weather and raised in a jiffy when rain clouds threaten.

Believed to be the first structure of its kind, the elements-proof amphitheatre will be ready the year after next. It will house the performances of the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera association and other non-profit activities.

Most novel feature of the \$1,000,000 project is the removable roof. The amphitheatre seating 2500 persons will be covered in bad weather by a plastic fabric tent supported by a movable steel framework.

The flexible ceiling will be divided into pie-shaped segments that will fan upward from the rear of the arena when it is being covered by a flick of a switch.

**Quick Cover**  
The plastic "tent" will move from its lowered position up over the arena in two and a half minutes on a giant arch-like steel frame.

Half of the project's cost will be provided by a pledge from a trust set up by Edgar J. Kaufmann, Pittsburgh philanthropist and merchant. The city agreed to match that sum.

Kaufmann suggested the removable roof when he donated the money for the project. The structure's unusual design was based on an invention of James A. Mitchell, member of a Pittsburgh architectural firm.

Officials of the Civic Light Opera association said rain-cancellations normally cost the group between \$10,000 and \$12,000 for a single performance at Pitt stadium and other outdoor sites.

The new amphitheatre's site will be chosen early next year and ground will be broken in the spring. The city of Pittsburgh will own the structure and lease it to the opera association.

# Swift Cows Race For Freedom

OLDLAND, England, Dec. 20 (AP)—Weary Charles Crier has sold his two racing heifers—as is and where is.

Now all the buyer has to do is catch them.

The heifers—a pair of three-year-old shorthorn sisters named Rosie and Daisy—are lurking in a 25-acre field.

Two weeks ago Crier decided to round them up and take them to market. Rosie and Daisy seemed suspicious. They ran like gazelles every time he entered the field. This went on for days.

**Desperation**  
In desperation, Crier put up a reward of £5 (\$14) for their capture. Fifteen men and four dogs chased Rosie and Daisy fruitlessly up and down the field. This also went on for days.

Finally Crier gave up and sold them, at £30 (\$84) under the market price, to Dealer Albert Lovell. "I've got a few ideas up my sleeve," Lovell said today. "Now I'm going to let them calm down a while before I have a go."

About 42 feet of rain falls on Mt. Waialeale in the Hawaiian islands in an average year.

To Buy or Sell—Use the Want-Ads!



**BRIMFUL OF PROBLEMS**—Seaman Salvatore Fanfarelli, of New Haven, Conn., stepped off the cruiser Fargo at Brooklyn Navy Yard, with this giant sombrero. That didn't bother anybody until he showed up at the Brooklyn USO-Navy YMCA and asked Teddy Thayer, a USO volunteer, to wrap it as a gift. Teddy is pondering the problem.

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# Polio Funds Low; Drive Quota Hiked

NEW YORK, Dec. 20 (AP)—The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis is in the worst financial condition in its history, President Basil O'Connor says, and it will double its March of Dimes goal.

He said yesterday that the foundation must raise more than \$50,000,000 in January in its annual March of Dimes campaign—twice the amount raised in the 1949 drive.

The crisis was caused, he said, by "the largest number of cases of infantile paralysis in any one country in any year in the world's history."

O'Connor said 41,461 cases have been reported thus far this year. Writing to the foundation's 2800 local chapters, he said the national headquarters on December 1 had only \$1,600,000 on hand to meet emergency requests for the next six months.

"Against this \$1,600,000," he said, "we already have on hand at this moment requests for \$1,600,000 from chapters that must have financial assistance from national headquarters."  
The 1950 March of Dimes will start January 16.

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