



CHRISTINE NILSSON, the plump Swedish diva opened the Metropolitan Opera on October 22, 1883, in "Faust."



RENATA TEBALDI, in costume for current role of "Tosca," modern diva, wears \$100,000 worth of diamonds.

Doughty Divas Absent From Modern Opera

By DOROTHY ROE
Associated Press Women's Editor

Where are the doughty divas of yesteryear?

This question must have occurred to the brilliant first-night audience which gathered recently to add lustre to the diamond jubilee of New York's Metropolitan Opera, celebrating its 75th birthday in the musty but elegant old building where so many prima donnas first won fame.

The glamorous Renata Tebaldi singing the title role of "Tosca" in this season's opening performance is far different from the robust diva, Christine Nilsson, who opened the Met on October 22, 1883, as Marguerite in "Faust." The Swedish singer was 40 years old when she sang the role of the young girl who bewitched Dr. Faustus, and was applauded by such renowned first-nighters as Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Mr. and Mrs. J. Pierpont Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Gould, Mr. and Mrs. Ogden Mills and other regulars in the Diamond Horseshoe. Nilsson was paid more than \$1,000 a performance—not hay in those days before the birth of the income tax.

Nellie Melba, the Australian diva, made history at the Met with her debut as Lucia in 1893. All her gowns were made by Worth of Paris, including one of cloth of gold that cost \$2,400. She had a half million dollars worth of diamonds which she always carried with her in a little green bag.

First of the young, slender prima donnas was Geraldine Farrar, who made her Met debut in 1906 and retired at the age of 40 in 1922. She went to Hollywood and married the handsome actor, Lou Tellegen. This year Farrar will celebrate her 76th birthday, probably with a quiet dinner at her white Colonial house in Ridgefield, Connecticut.

Tebaldi, who opened the current Met Season, wore a \$100,000 collection of diamonds in the dramatic second act of "Tosca"—a tribute to the diamond anniversary of the historic old Met, which probably will be torn down when the opera moves to its new home in Lincoln Center, scheduled for completion in 1961.

PRIESTS' SCHOLARSHIPS

GENEVA, Switzerland (AP) — A commission of the Lutheran World Federation has granted scholarships to three former Roman Catholic priests in Italy to take theological training for entering the Lutheran ministry in that country.

BUILDING LOAN

NEW YORK (AP) — The United Presbyterian Church has obtained a \$5 million dollar loan from the New York Life Insurance Co. to be used to help build churches "in new or rapidly growing communities, where physical facilities are absent or wholly inadequate."

MARRIAGE MANUAL

CHICAGO (AP) — The Methodist church has issued an official marriage manual for engaged couples, entitled "In Holy Matrimony," designed to give guidance on various problems faced by newly-weds. The church also has put out a new manual for use by pastors in giving premarital counseling.

DRINKING FORMULA

BLACKTOWN, New South Wales, Australia (AP) — The annual Seventh-day Adventist Bible conference here offered this table of drinking: 2 pints equals 1 quart; 1 quart equals 1 argument; 1 argument equals 1 fight; 1 fight equals 1 cop; 1 cop equals 1 arrest; 1 arrest equals 1 judge; 1 judge equals 30 days.

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Family Loyal To The Army

EDGEWOOD, Md. (AP) — It was just a simple swearing-in ceremony in the colonel's office.

But, when it was over, the colonel gave WAC Lt. Dorothy Fellenz a fatherly kiss on the cheek.

And why not, since Col. Lloyd E. Fellenz, commander of the chemical warfare laboratories at the Army Chemical Center, is her father.

The Fellenzes are only two of many members of their family in government service.

An uncle, Brig. Gen. J. L. Throckmorton, is commandant of cadets at West Point.

Another uncle, Lt. Col. E. F. Higgins, is an adviser to the National Guard at Hartford, Conn. Lt. Alex Burke, a cousin, is with the Air Force's Strategic Air Command in Nebraska.

Thomas B. Throckmorton, another cousin, is a cadet at West Point.

A third cousin, Pfc. Joseph Gatti, is stationed at Fort Totten, N. Y.

The lieutenant's grandfather, Robert A. Fellenz, retired from the Army with 38 years service.

Dorothy's 19-year-old sister, Genie, is a student at the College of New Rochelle, N. Y., and works at the chemical center during the summer.

A younger sister, Andrea, is a teen-ager. And there are three younger brothers, ranging in age down to Johnny, a first-grader.

—Photo by Bruno Studios

Yule Styles Feature White

Christmas is the time when girls come home from college for two weeks of holiday festivity before the grim grind of final exams.

There are Christmas dances, New Year's Eve balls, skating parties and matinee dates. It's the gayest time of the year, and to do it honor, girls need new clothes.

This year white and pastel wools are the big news in informal wool dresses for daytime festivities and matinee wear. You'll be seeing them wherever young people gather, in sleek, simple styles, effective under bright coats and with gay accessories.

David Crystal this winter introduces a new line of matinee dresses in white and pastels, designed to shine under winter furs, appropriately sparked by gay costume jewelry and newly designed Swiss watches which insure a girl against being late for the opening curtain.

The new styles are named appropriately "Leading Lady," "Play of the Season," "Curtain Time," "Box Office" and "Billboard."



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Basket Handbags New London Fad

By MOLLY NICHOLSON

LONDON (AP) — Like many another penny-conscious London stenographer, 16-year-old Pat Watts was delighted to find a local store selling just what she wanted for only six shillings, three pence (88 cents).

Just what she wanted was a

FUR FABRIC BERETS

Those furry fabric berets come with matching scarves. They're done in dramatic color combinations, too, like mauve-and-green.

SPANISH NEEDS

BOSTON (AP) — Back from a recent visit to Spain, the Rev. Dr. Fred F. Goodsell, a retired Congregational missions leader, said Protestant missionary work is needed in Spain more than ever before.

He said the Catholic church there "has to a very great extent lost its ability to meet basic human need for spiritual transformation and guidance."

Uncle H. R. Fellenz is a retired Army captain living at Niagara Falls, N. Y.

And the end is not in sight.

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—Photo by Bruno Studios

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Prices range from as little as three shillings, six pence (49 cents) to 18 shillings, six pence (\$2.73) for the most popular varieties.

Why the enormous popularity of baskets?

The current desire of teen-agers, fostered by fashion magazines, to "go continental" is held partly responsible.

So is the desire of married women to have a shopping basket large enough to carry their purchases and yet one not too ugly to take with them to work.

Nearly all the women agree they buy by appearance only. Few say they have quality in mind.

Many of the cheaper baskets are incredibly flimsy and do not stand up to hard wear. They burst at the seams or part company with their handles in a very short time.

"When it wears out I'll just get another," is Pat's typical comment. "They're cheap enough."

Buyers are betting that it will—and sales are going steadily up and up.

Puddle-Jumpers

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